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SKIP CyberHam

September 1997

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet

HANGIN' AROUND WITH SPIES

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http://www.digital.net/skip/

Newsbriefs

Ham vs. Cellular - Ham wins again!

Ham radio aids in biker's rescue: Mountain biker Tom Thompson is grateful for ham radio, which played a vital role August 3 in getting him prompt medical attention after he was injured during a ride in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Gorge. Ham and paramedic Joe Cummings, N3SQR, of Warrington, Pennsylvania, was biking with his daughter in the area when they came upon Tom, seriously injured with broken bones and facial injuries. Joe used his H-T and the Carbon Amateur Radio Club repeater to reach Ann Keiser, KO3M, who called 911 and got help on the way. Tom was especially fortunate that a ham found him, since the area where he was injured is outside the normal range for cellular telephones.—Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI

Surveys show TECHNICIAN License most popular

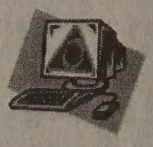
A survey of ARRL Volunteer Instructors shows that most teach between one and two classes a year and the vast majority of students obtain their Technician tickets. The survey revealed that classes average eight students. Graduates are 5% Novice, 88% Technician, 5% General, 1% Advanced, and 1% Extra.

Approximately 11% of the more than 2000 Volunteer Instructors responded to the survey. Of that group, 90% reported they use Now You're Talking in their classes. The instructors said that 80% of their students join the ARRL.

In another survey, ARRL-Registered School Teachers reported that their students' favorite ham radio activities, by far, were HF DXing, taking part in licensing classes, radio club activities and VHF/UHF operating. The 108 teachers who returned their surveys (approximately 11% of the total) say they introduced nearly 8800 students to ham radio. The teachers said that about 60% of their licensing classes prepared youngsters for the Technician license and 40% for the Novice ticket. Most teachers said they use ARRL study materials.

Volunteer Instructors and ARRL-Registered School Teachers were polled last spring. The ARRL Educational Activities Department recently compiled the results of the two surveys.—Rosalie White, WA1STO

AOL Beta Testers targeted by hackers



DULLES, VIRGINIA, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 11 (NB) — By Sami Menefee. America Online (AOL [NYSE:AOL] chief executive officer, Steve Case, issued a warning to all AOL beta testers that they could be the target of "the criminal elements trying to spread viruses and steal passwords and other account information." These "Internet hackers," his memo said, are vandals who spread the "so-called Trojan Horse programs" and other logic bombs, Newsbytes has learned.

Case's memo said that AOL doesn't e-mail beta software or updates, so the viruses aren't transmitted by that route. Rather, the service's beta testers must sign into a special area from which other AOL subscribers are blocked in order to download the newest beta versions of the software.

His memo strongly stressed the recent warning not to download files attached to unsolicited e-mail.

The simple rules for all to follow when downloading files are restated from the memo as follows:

"1) Never download files attached to e-mail if you don't know the sender; 2) NEVER give out your password; and 3) if you receive any suspicious files, forward them immediately to screen name TOSFiles."

A recently released AOL program called "Download Sentry" is designed to remind users of the possibility of unauthorized file attachments.

Milwaukee Ordinance restricts towers

A new ordinance going into effect later this year in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will require a special use permit to construct any antenna towers in the city that exceed the zoning district height limit—typically 40 feet. Towers more than double the zoning district height would require a zoning variance. Those familiar with the situation say the new uniform tower law apparently was a reaction to a recent spurt of applications for cellular telephone towers in the city. The city's current tower ordinance exempts towers of licensed amateurs.

Obtaining a special use permit or a zoning variance to erect a tower of more than 40 feet also means the applicant must pay a $300 fee. Applications are subject to public hearings. A special use permit or variance also must comply with other requirements, including setback criteria for freestanding towers. Towers mounted on buildings would be permitted only if they are less than 20 feet in height or 25% of the height of the building or structure, whichever is less.

The new ordinance exempts existing towers in Milwaukee as "legally nonconforming." Mayor John Norquist signed the ordinance on August 5. It becomes effective November 1.—thanks to Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, Rick Kissell, WB9GYT, and Scott Frakes, KB9PRG

Slamming the door on SLAMMING

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 11 (NB) — REPEAT/By Bill Pietrucha. Imagine signing up for a chance to win a truck or a big cash award, and then finding out that the only prize you've won is having your long distance service switched to another company against your will. Such tactics, called slamming, will be investigated next week when the US Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation travels to Billings, Montana to hold hearings on the problem.

"I have heard from a lot of Montanans who were essentially tricked into leaving the long distance company that, in many cases, they were completely satisfied with," Commerce Committee member Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Montana) said. "Congress is considering a number of bills to help correct this, and this hearing will help give us a better grasp on the issue."

Burns will preside at the hearing. Burns, who also is chairman of the

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Commerce Committee's subcommittee on communications, noted that US West recently reported that customer complaints of slamming increased from a monthly average of just 9,473 in 1994 to 23,244 this year. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also reported that slamming complaints tripled across the US in the same period.

Witnesses at the hearing, which will be held Tuesday, August 12 at 9:30 AM local time in the Fortin Auditorium at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, will include FCC Commissioner Susan Ness; Hon. Sonny Hanson, Montana House of Representatives member of the Legislative Consumer Committee; Rick Hayes, Montana vice president of US West Inc., Maria Arias-Chapleau, vice president, law and government, AT&T; Bob Rowe, chairman of the communications committee for the National Association of Utility Commissioners, and William Squires, director of the Montana Telephone Association.

Microsoft Scorpian Chip turns TVs Interactive

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 5 (NB) — REPEAT/By Bill Pietrucha. The long-promised, but never fully realized, interactive television may finally get the chance to prove its worth with a new graphics and digital video encoder chip from Motorola [NYSE:MOT]. The chip, according to Motorola will provide the technology to turn a television into an interactive information appliance with a flexible, graphical user interface.

Called the Scorpion chip, the MC92100 from Motorola's Semiconductor Products Sector will provide flexible, television based graphics overlay and mixing capabilities to get an interactive relationship between television watchers and the tube.

According to Ed Evans, manager of graphic systems engineering for Motorola's audio/video products operation, interactive features will include Internet browsing and an electronic program guide in both new and existing Motorola products.

Evans said that Scorpion graphics match the resolution and color depth of standard NTSC/PAL baseband video. The system also will allow products to display multiple windows containing interactive graphics right over the traditional video stream on the television screen. This, he said, will allow users to watch television and browse the Internet and other information sources at the same time.

"Scorpion enables interactive graphics capabilities to be incorporated into a broad range of consumer products," Evans said. "With Scorpion-enabled products, users will be able to manipulate Web pages, program guides and other interactive content on a television, while continuing to view the video stream."

Consumer electronic products will include Intelligent TVs (iTV), Set-Top Boxes (STB) and DVD players.

Unlike existing VGA-based solutions, Evans said Scorpion is designed specifically for use with televisions, eliminating many of the problems with VGA-based products. The chip's selectable square pixel filter ensures that both computer based and television specific graphics are displayed accurately, he said, while Scorpion's adaptive deflicker filter checks graphics pixel by pixel to ensure a flicker-free display.

Scorpion's digital video encoder supports outputs in RGB (red-green-blue), Composite Video and S-Video, and also supports PAL (phase alternation line) and NTSC (National Television Standards Committee) formats. The encoder also has closed caption inserter.

Scorpion's inputs include a standard ITU-R-656 input for various digital video sources. The chip also supports a "glueless interface" to an external processor, such as PowerPC or ColdFire, Evans said, as well as direct interface to an external SDRAM.

Scorpion will support a wide range of graphics data formats, including YCrCb (4:2:2), RGB16 (565 and 555), as well as 2/4/8 bit Color Look Up Tables (CLUT). All formats support alpha mixing/transparency on a pixel or window basis.

Scorpion's reference/development system currently utilizes Motorola's PowerPC 8xx embedded processor family, Evans said, which is supported by a majority of the embedded operating systems including Microware OS-9, Wind River VXWorks, ISI pSOS, and Microsoft WinCE.

Evans said samples of the chip now are available in a 208-lead plastic QFP package. Production volumes of the MC92100 are available at a US suggested list price of less than $20 per unit in 50,000-piece quantities, Evans said.

SKIP ON TAPE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SKIP is put on tape every month for the benefit of the blind or visually impaired. These tapes are available if requested and postage is paid both ways. If you are interested in this valuable service, contact Ms. Desaree Stewart, Library for the Blind, 420 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. **Phone 1-800-226-6075.**

Farmers can spy on pregnant cows

LANGHORN, PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 14 (NB) — By Sami Menefee. Eye On You Inc. has released the RCS5000 Camera Server to send video images to remote viewers via Internet, intranet, or direct dial connections. This new server gives parents, homeowners, business owners, and even farmers, a way to keep tabs on things when they can't be on location.

David Goodman, owner and president of Eye On You, told Newsbytes, "We manufacture and distribute surveillance equipment, like cameras that fit inside clock radios and air fresheners. This new product, the RCS5000 real-time camera server, works with any installed surveillance or closed circuit video equipment. It is a black box containing all necessary hardware and software to transmit live images from areas with the camera in place to anywhere in the world. Once the black box is in place, no other hardware is needed. Then, to see what's being filmed, a person dials in with his own unique password.

"People can access this system from anywhere, not just from the Internet. All they need is a modem and phone to direct dial their home number to see what is going on, without going through the Internet. They can be halfway around the world," Goodman told Newsbytes.

For example, he said, if a parent works and leaves the child in a day care center, the RCS5000 would let that parent go to the Web site during the day. The device sends out time-released images, in as low as two-to-five second intervals depending on the intervals chosen. Day care centers want this type of system, Goodman added.

"This provides the ultimate open-door policy. Day care centers want to give parents accessibility to see what is going on during the day. It gives parents more interaction with their children. It lets parents see what happens dur-

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From the Editor

The production of the September Issue was delayed by the unfortunate demise of my beloved mother ... motherboard that is. I admit that I referred to the motherboard in other terms, especially after erroneously concluding that I had a severely tormented registry and formatting my hard disk was the only solution. After formatting and reinstalling Windows95, I was horrified to find the same error message when it unsuccessfully tried to boot into Windows. I had to conclude that it was time to wash my mouth out with soap, take a prozac and head for the nearest computer technician.

After unjustly being accused by the technician of messing with my registry (which I absolutely WON'T do), he fixed my registry, triumphantly reinstalled Windows, and was unceremoniously presented with the same error message I got.

"In all the computers I have ever fixed, I never saw that message before," he lamented.

The computer said that there was an error writing to the IOS. After calling in the expert (his wife), she concluded that it was a simple error in the registry. Now, I advise you to read paragraphs 2 and 3 above at least 5 times substituting "she" for "he", sit and stare at a monitor for about 3 hours, and you will have shared my experience that day in the computer shop.

"You'll have to leave the computer here," she informed me, much like the doctor telling you that he will have to operate tomorrow.

The sad part of the story is that it meant a whole weekend without my computer. I didn't realize the extent of my withdrawal until Saturday morning when I usually prowl the Internet without restraint. AHA! I almost forgot, I have a laptop. I never used it with a modem but there was no reason why I couldn't quickly configure it. The laptop is usually used to store my subscriber database for easy reference at computer shows and hamfests.

I installed Netscape and a dialer and before long, I was ready to go. Bing, Bang and Bingo - I was connected to my ISP. After about 15 minutes, my default home page (www.netscape.com) had painted about 1/16" of the top of the page. Not being famous for my patience, I tried several more connects with the same results. (At least I was occupied and not subject to the severe seizures that accompany acute computer withdrawal)

I decided to install Eudora and be content for the moment with retrieving my mail. Connecting was a snap. Check mail - no problem. All the progress thermometers functioned (although slowly). Finally, it told me that I had 29 messages waiting to be downloaded. No problemo! Go for it.

47 minutes later, I had all my messages. Scattered within the 47 minutes were at least a dozen server time-outs and computer freezes (or gags).

After completing my maniacal compulsion to download my e-mail, I finally looked into the capabilities and limitations of my laptop which I had long ago forgotten. I found that I was capable of operating at the breakneck speed of 9600 bps. Somewhere, I remember reading that servers don't want to dink around with speeds less that 14400. All in all, I was probably lucky to even get one message let alone all 29.

Sunday was spent cleaning the office, cleaning the garage and watching TV. Occasionally I had a notion to check my e-mail but just between you and me, I was afraid there might be some.

By the way, the shop finally substituted another motherboard and came to the conclusion that my old board was the culprit all along. My unfortunate experience also taught me that it might be wise to upgrade my laptop.

Gerry

FLORIDA SKIP

SKIP

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ing their child's daytime routine, not just hear about it. The centers are protected, too."

"We have one Canadian farmer with a barn 10 miles from his house. He installed this system to keep watch on his prize-winning Holsteins. He uses it to check on cows about to go into labor. It saves him the trouble of driving out there until necessary."

Goodman also sees the RCS5000 as "an opportunity for Web masters, Web page design firms, and Internet service providers, giving them a low-cost opportunity to offer their clients a wide range of innovative live video broadcast applications."

Goodman says that the company's Web site shows a working demo, and provides equipment specifications.

The Eye On You site at http://www.carecams.com .

It was Silicon Valley all along

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA , U.S.A., 1997 15 (NB) — By Sami Menefee. California surgeon Edward Knowlton says he used Autodesk's 3D Studio MAX animation software to develop a breast reconstruction technique that he calls the Pectoralis Peg. According to Knowlton, the procedure gives patients the "full benefits of a mastectomy while restoring a normal appearing breast."

"I hope that we can help eliminate a woman's fear of severe scaring or disfigurement after a radical mastectomy," he says. Fear of disfigurement often prevents women from seeking early medical intervention, a delay that costs lives.

Autodesk quoted Knowlton as stating: "The program lets me think in three dimensions, to visualize a reconstructed breast and plan the surgery accordingly," Since surgeons must think in three dimensions, he said the 3D Studio MAX can help them visualize a procedure, and then show how the surgery and recovery period will progress. With an animated picture of the pre- and post operative breast, Knowlton saw where a bowtie incision instead of a straight line incision would give an almost scarless closure. He said the program helped him in the development of the Pectoralis Peg because he could see how the body healed, a necessary step in the creation of a normal appearing nipple.

PAY YOUR MONEY N' TAKE YOUR PICK

CW Returns to MARS Nets

CW, which was officially banned last fall from the Military Affiliate Radio System, or MARS, has now been allowed back, at least on a limited basis. "It's a good thing, I think," allowed Lt Barbara Carter, acting chief of Navy-Marine Corps MARS, who said she's been fighting on behalf of CW enthusiasts protesting the order to cease CW activity as of October 1, 1996. Permission to resume the use of CW on Department of Defense MARS frequencies for everything but formal MARS message traffic was handed down at a joint service conference in early July. "They met us halfway," she said of the decision.

A message to all Navy and Marine Corps MARS members in July said that the Department of Defense "has no objections for CW use on MARS frequencies but only for unofficial use and practice. No emergency/official messages are authorized in CW." Carter confirmed her interpretation that MARS members may use CW for code practice and informal communication "or just because they really enjoy using it."

Bob Stakel, KD1KV/NNN0TDU, of Falmouth, Maine—the assistant Region 1 MARS director—said CW was being used on no fewer than one net a month in Northern New England. "We lost people" because of the CW prohibition, Stakel said. Now that limited use of CW has been reinstated, "we are using it," he said.

In MARS Region 3, Navy MARS member Frank Thrash, W4DLZ, of Metairie, Lousiana, had high praise for Carter's efforts on behalf of CW. "This woman really stuck her neck out," he said. "Our nets are working pretty much as before [the ban]."

Carter, who's not a ham but is interested in becoming licensed, confirmed that some MARS members quit when CW was prohibited. She said that when she took over as Navy-Marine MARS chief, the return of CW was among the first things she heard about. "All they were asking was for a small bit that most of them learned while serving [in the military]," she said.

Thrash is among those who believe CW is far from obsolete. "It's the ultimate weak-signal mode," he said.

Keogh departs World Radio

Lou Ann Keogh, KB6HP, has resigned as editor of World Radio magazine. An independent ham radio journal, World Radio is published monthly.

MARS CW BAN Remains in Effect

MARS members can put those bugs, paddles and keys away again. The head of the MARS program, Joseph Frizzell, says the ban on the use of CW on MARS frequencies remains in effect. Frizzell said a "miscue" led to an erroneous announcement within the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program to the effect that CW would again be permitted for informal use on MARS frequencies (see The ARRL Letter, Vol 16, No 32). Some Navy-Marine Corps MARS members had already resumed using the mode in the wake of that announcement.

Frizzell said that while he personally has no objections to the use of CW, he must follow the policy dictates now in effect. CW was banned from MARS frequencies as of last October 1 as a result of the policies of former Assistant Secretary of Defense Emmett Paige. "The policy has not changed," Frizzell emphasized this week. "That's a fact."

Both Frizzell and Paige are hams.

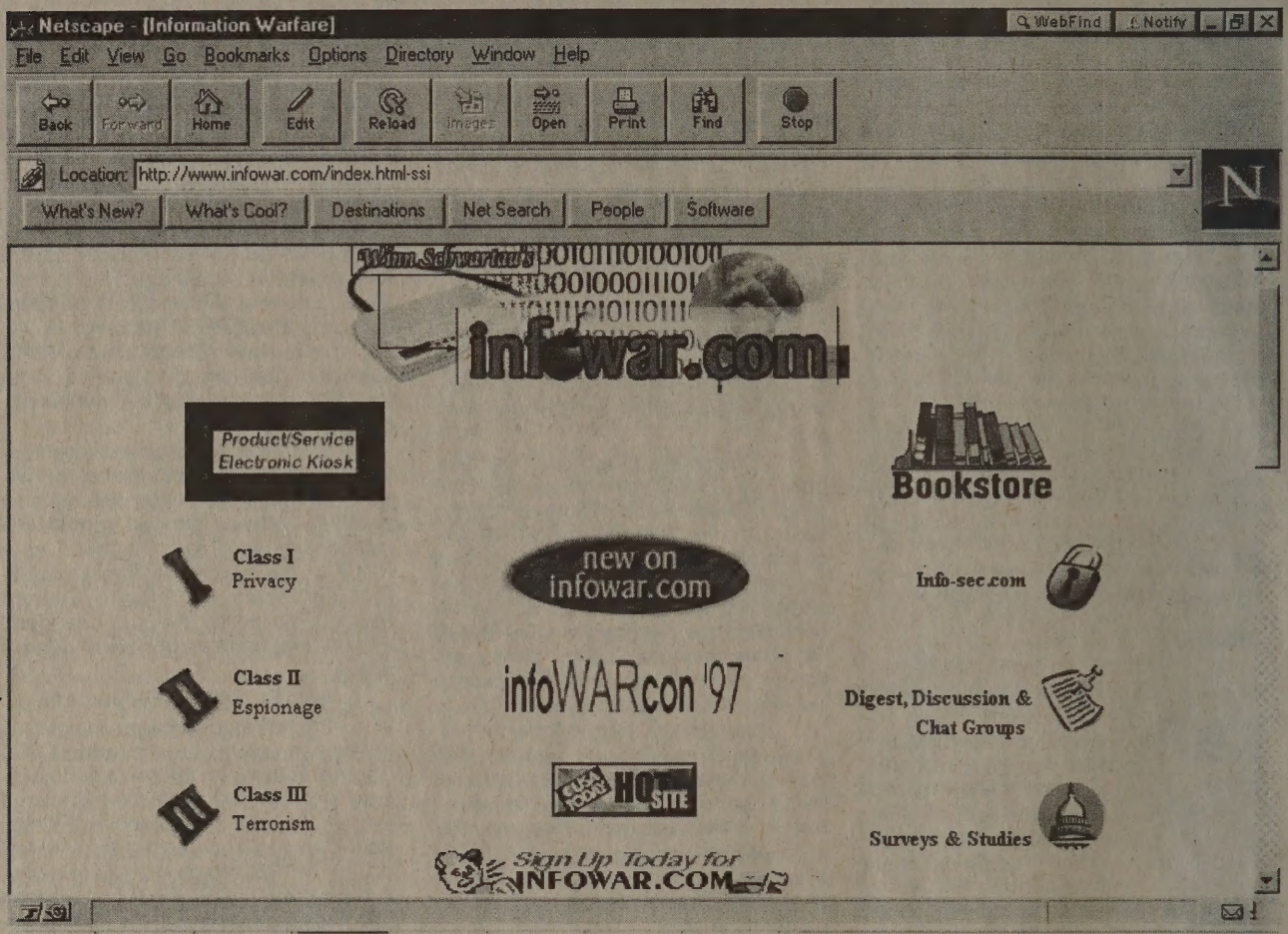
Frizzell said a change in policy is always possible, but he added that "there's nothing on the horizon" to indicate that CW will again be authorized for use on MARS frequencies. Frizzell said Congress has asked for a report on the MARS program by year's end. Among other things, the report will look into possible changes in the MARS mission.

-ARRL Letter

E. F. Johnson Co. to be sold

Transcrypt International Inc has announced it's signed a letter of intent to acquire E. F. Johnson Company, a former ham radio manufacturer. Johnson was a popular manufacturer of ham transmitters, antenna tuners and station accessories during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Some Johnson ham equipment still is highly prized among collectors. E. F. Johnson is privately held and posted revenues of $79.3 million in 1996. The company manufactures equipment for the public safety and land mobile services. Transcrypt went public in January 1997 and had 1996 revenues of $13.8 million. The total sale price is said to be $34 million. E. F. Johnson Company founded in 1923 by Edgar F. Johnson in Waseca, Minnesota, was one of the first developers of two-way radio systems. The company employs 650 people at its Waseca, Minnesota, facility. For more information, see http://www.transcrypt.com/Pages/News/efj.html.—thanks to David Thompson, K4JRB

Hangin' Around with Spies



What is the greatest resource for intelligence (that's spy talk for information about an enemy)? The CIA, DIA, NSA or any of a multitude of acronymic governmental agencies? According to more and more articles in newspapers and magazines, intelligence consumers and even spies are turning to an alternative source for quick, easy access to the information.

You can mingle with the pros and do some sleuthing around for yourself since this great resource is INFO.WAR.COM on the Internet. You better set aside at least one day to rummage through InfoWar's web site because it addresses every conceivable threat to one's security.

When you arrive at the home page, you get an idea of the magnitude of information that is available: Privacy, Espionage, Terrorism, Military & C41, Hacker Musings, Electronic Civil Defense, Information Security, and even some tools and utilities. Branching off the main page takes you deeper into the subject matter and close to the point of information overload. For example, clicking to Military and C41 takes one to a section that presents work from the Military, the Defense Universities, and people with interest in C41, C31 and C2. You can read about Chinese Information Warfare, the Army War College's Unclassified Advanced Course on Protecting Critical Infrastructures, Infiltrations at military facilities, Defense Time Bomb by a pentagon analyst and over a 100 other journals, reviews, papers or reports.

While sleuthing in the Terrorism area, I soon was emersed in the tactics and techniques of Global Terrorism, profiles of Yassir Arafat, the IRA and more.

Often, access to specific information is needed "yesterday" and dealing with the bureaucracy of government agencies coupled with the reluctance to divulge sensitive information, frustrates intelligence consumers and escalates already dangerous situations. With increasing frequency, consumers are sending out an SOS through the facilities of InfoWar who have direct access to the greatest masterminds in the intelligence industry.

Many military analysts are concerned that warfare has taken on a new dimension in the dawn of information technology and the Internet. The Pentagon defines information warfare as, " ... to exploit, corrupt, or destroy an adversary's information and information systems while protecting one's own." Info-sec, is another key area of the website where one can gather information on everything from Tel-Abuse to the latest cryptology technology.

Registered users can access specific reports moments after an occurrence. For instance, if there is a bombing in Israel, one can accumulate the latest reports from all over the world. This is a valuable resource for an intelligence analyst who among other things, assesses the reaction of various demographic areas of the world and any statements released by world leaders. Much of this information is conveniently packaged at the InfoWar website. The site ranks as one of the most comprehensive, informative, and interesting websites this writer has ever visited. But then, if I told you where I worked for a number of years, you would understand why.

Sleuth away at: **http://www.infowar.com**

Soooo, what do I do with all of those five and a quarter inch floppies anyway?

The ubiquitous floppy has been around since the first home computer hit the market. The first drives that I worked with were eight inches wide and held about 500K bytes. The Tandy TRS80 came with the five and a quarter and they held 160K bytes. The floppy disks were pretty cheap, a buck or two, but the drives cost hundreds. I skipped the convenience and used a portable cassette player to load software. It took 15 minutes to fire up my Basic compiler and that was if it worked the first time. If you could afford the expense, a floppy drive was the ticket to useful computing. A floppy was large enough to hold a complete operating system and maybe even a compiler. Once loaded up, you could pull that disk out and stick in your data disk. You could back up your work and save it for another day. If you had two drives, then you were really living. You could keep the operating system in one drive and the data disk in the other. Then, you didn't even have to swap a floppy.

Early floppy drives were finicky. If you powered your system off while the drive was engaged, the floppy inside was frequently from the power glitch. After a couple of months, the heads were dirty and drive needed an alignment. If you went too long without your alignment, then your disks wouldn't work in someone else's machine.

There were no hard drives at this time, at least affordable ones anyway. The little DEC PDPs had a removable 8 megabyte drive that looked like a flying saucer with a handle on top. They were thousands of dollars and proprietary to DEC equipment. It was several years later that the first Shugart 5 megabyte hard drive appeared.

The five and a quarter high-density drive made its debut on the IBM PC AT. It held over a megabyte. By this time, PCs were shipping with hard drives. Floppy disks now had a new role. They served as permanent removable storage. Software vendors used the floppy disk for product distribution and PC users backed up their work.

The emergence of the Apple Macintosh introduced the three and half inch format that is now the standard. This format, developed by Sony, was designed to fit in your shirt pocket and hold up to 800K bytes. The hard case was easier to handle and you could write on the labels with a regular ball point pen. The PCs adopted the new format a few years later with the release of the PS2 computers. IBM took an aggressive logical step by leaving out the 5 and a quarter. The high density three and a half, at up to 1.6 megabytes, followed quickly in both MAC and PC platforms.

For a while, I always included both drives in systems that I assembled for friends and customers. I still had some old software on the big disks and the new stuff was starting to show up on the small ones. It was a convenience to be able to use both formats.

Come to think of it, I really don't even use my floppy drive much anymore. Yes, I still make an emergency rescue disk for my Windows 95 system (as everyone should). This boot disk could help me fix my system if something critical fails. Most new software seems to come on CD ROM these days. And, the latest PCs support boot CD ROMs. Even the famous (or infamous) AOL software is now coming on CD. My documents have gotten so large with all of the graphics and drawings that I can't store my data on a floppy. A system backup is out of the question. It would take hundreds of disks and several hours of time.

The writing is on the wall. The floppy has outlived its use. But, there is still a need for removable and re-writable media.

So, what's out there to take the place of the venerable floppy disk drive.

The most logical choice is the LS120 format now implemented by Compaq Computer. This drive can replace the standard floppy reading and writing 1.44 megabytes or, with special media, all the way to 120 megabytes. Performance is two to four times faster than a floppy disk but with that much storage, it could take several minutes to copy big files.

The LS120 can be a bootable disk but BIOS support is required to use these devices. The latest motherboard releases all have the capability but I have yet to see an add-on board with LS120 capability. I suspect that if the format catches on, legacy support will be right behind.

The IOMEGA ZIP drive is another good choice. The ZIP disk comes as an external with a parallel port interface or an internal with EIDE or SCSI interfaces. As a floppy replacement, the lower cost EIDE drive has my bet. The disks are reasonably priced at about $10 a piece and the shirt pocket size is certainly convenient.

With BIOS support, the ZIP drive can be booted and speeds are closer to a hard disk than a floppy.

Several vendors make blank ZIP disks under license from IOMEGA. And with competition and mass production, the price will come down even more.

At this time, the ZIP drive appears to be more popular than the LS120. Macintosh computers use them extensively particularly in the printing business and MACs can read PC formatted ZIP disks (PCs don't go the other way as usual).

CD Rewritable is an emerging technology for removable storage. These drives can read standard CD ROMs or write them with special media. The linear access of the disk reminds me more of a tape drive than a disk. You can't just delete a file and another once the disk has been created. You have to erase the whole CD and start over.

The convenience of magnetic media out weighs the extra density of the CD. I see CD Rewritable disks as best for archiving large data sets.

Optical disks made an appearance for a while with high density storage and easy data access. These drives were very costly as was the media. The CD ROM format and the future DVD offer high density with a main stream appeal.

For now, the market has yet to choose, but don't be surprised if that box of floppy disks in my closet shows up at the next hamfest.

73's Steve

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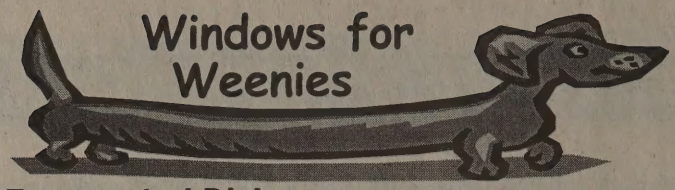


Fragmented Disk

Your computer has a habit of developing problems that are subtle and often go unnoticed. It's sort of like a wart that starts out innocently enough but later becomes a real irritant. Fragmented files on the hard disk fall into a similar category. They grow and they grow and they grow and with each little fragment that is born on your hard disk, the performance of your computer is degraded.

Disk fragmentation occurs in the normal operation of the computer as it reads and writes to the hard disk. When it wants to plunk something on the hard disk, it takes the first available free space that is available. After a time, a file may have a little piece here, a little piece there and some pieces here, there and everywhere. E-I-E-I-O. There is nothing really wrong about that since when retrieving a file, the computer reassembles all these pieces and your file is intact.

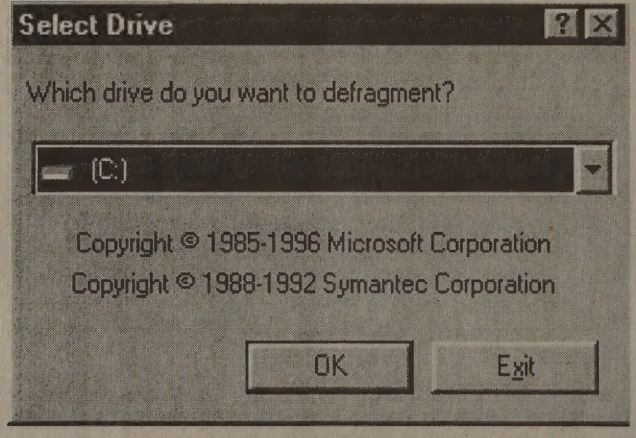
Every time the computer has to jump around looking for pieces of information, it has to run around on your hard disk to reassemble a file which takes time and degrades performance if your file is scattered all over the hard disk. The solution is simple - Defragment your hard disk and do it frequently. The Defrag application takes each file, assembles all these pieces and places them in one contiguous location on the hard disk. I might suggest you get prepared to read the newspaper if you've never defragged your disk or if you have one of those mega-gigas and haven't done it for awhile. If you're a real masochist, you can observe the whole painful process on screen - cluster by cluster. It's gonna take a looooooong time but it is worth the effort. But - do it frequently, especially after heavy activity on the computer. The next time you defrag, it won't take so long.

To defragment your disk:

Click on the Start Button - select Run - then type [defrag] without the brackets. Or - you could click on **Start> Programs> Accessories> System Tools> Disk Defragmenter.**

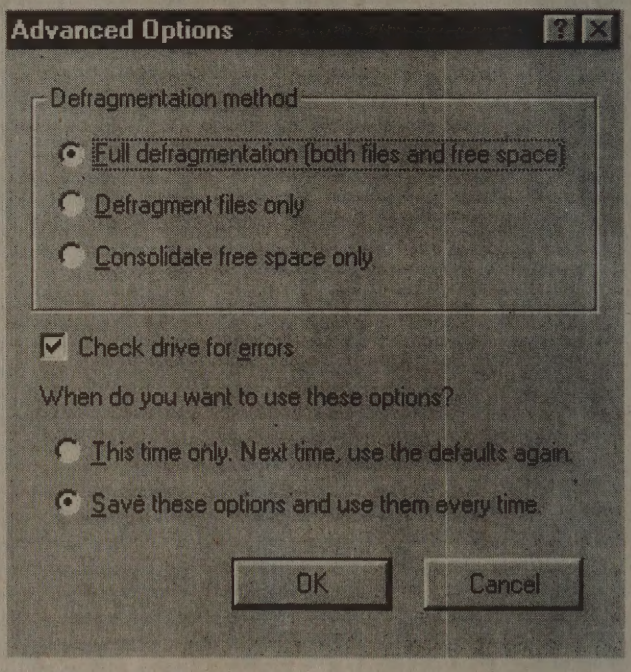
Specify the drive in the dialog box indicating which drive you wish to degragment. It usually is set to C as default.

By clicking on the Advanced button, you can specify



the method. One can cut down the time by selecting files or free space. Also you can specify whether the drive should be checked for errors. Save your options by clicking on the "Save these options and use them every time".

After you "ok" the Advanced Options box, hit the Start button and go read your newspaper. If you really want to watch the whole process, "show details" but bear in mind that it will slow down the already slow procedure.



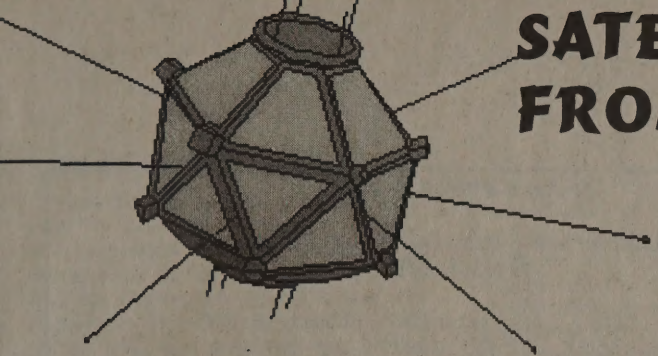
Right Clicking holds untold secrets

One of the most useful tools on the '95' computer is the "right click" button on your mouse. When in doubt, right click to see if you can perform a nifty function without wildly clicking around and ending up with a bunch of drop-down panels that send you on another clicking mission. If you have become dependent on the Windows Explorer (as you should), you can get to it in an instant by right clicking on the Start button and selecting Explore.

Right click on a blank area of your desktop and you can elect to arrange your desktop icons in many ways or just line them up. You can create shortcuts (activates shortcut wizard) or create and name a new folder. Click on Properties and the Display Properties window will be launched.

If you are in an application, always give it a right click to check if any of the taskbar functions may appear on your right click menu. You'll be pleasantly surprised how many handy things are available. In word processors, you can do all sorts of editing functions with the right clicker. Cut, paste, copy, clear, change character attributes, change paragraph attributes and much more depending on the software. *It sho do simplify things!*

Like I said, when in doubt, give it a right click and check out what you can do. For sure, it isn't going to hurt anything and at most, you'll waste a click.

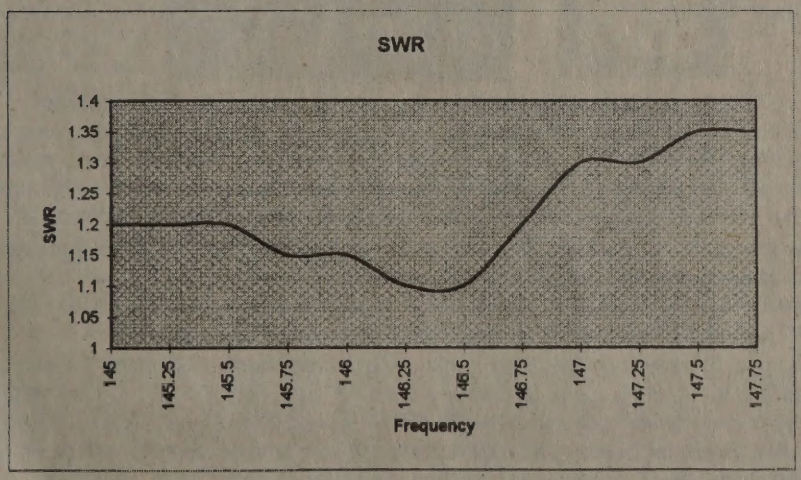


SATELLITE TALES FROM THE GROUND UP

Terry Selleck, WA9TTY

If you recall from last time, I had designed a 2m 5 element yagi with YO 6.5 - an yagi antenna design program by Brian Beezley K6STI. I then constructed a circularly polarized 2m 5element yagi, using two of these yagi's at right angles on the same boom, added a T match, and a polarization switching circuit. I still needed to test and tweak the antenna, adjusting the T match and checking out the SWR.

The T match that I built had about 4 inches of adjustment over which I could move the shorting strap. The procedure that I used for testing was to set the shorting strap to a known dimension from the end of the T match rod ends, and check SWR at several frequencies over the band. I tested the SWR over a period of several days. The first day I only completed about half of the measurements that I wanted to make. I had the antenna supported on a ladder for ease of adjustment. So I removed the coax connector from the yagi, put it and the ladder back into the garage. Well, it rained that night - a lot. We received about 2 inches of rain. The next day when I started to resume testing, I found that I had left the connector on my coax out in all that rain. When I started checking SWR again, I found that it was much higher that the previous day - about 1.8 wet as opposed to 1.5 when dry. Let this be a lesson to you - boys and girls. Keep your powder, and your coax connectors dry. I continued testing, looking for least SWR, rather than looking at the actual SWR values, hoping that the SWR would drop when the connector and cable dried out. This proved to be the case the next day. The SWR dropped and was about 1.1 at 146 Mhz (the center frequency) and was at about 1.2-1.3 at the edges. This is shown in Figure 1. This compares well with that predicted by YO, which was 1.1 at center and 1.3 at the edges.



For satellite communications, I have been rotating the beam by hand. I set it to the azimuth for maximum elevation for each pass. Last time I had questioned whether not being able to switch the polarization switching circuit (because I hadn't yet run 12v to the switching relay) was more limiting than not having a rotor. I had also wondered how much of the pass I could cover without a rotor. Well, it appears that I can cover about 1/2 or maybe a little more of each pass. With passes lasting 10-20 minutes, that's not very much. It's very difficult to determine this exactly. Each pass is different with regard to azimuth and elevation, and I find that it's not possible to get consistent signal strength measurements of my downlink signal from pass to pass. If I could just get a satellite to run the same orbit ten times in a row, I could do some decent testing and answer a lot of my questions. For a yagi antenna, I think that a rotor is definitely required. This hand rotation stuff is for the birds (sorry)!

I also have lost RS-10/11 reception recently. I thought that it might be a problem on my end, so I checked and rechecked everything that I could think of. I also started listening for an hour each side of the prediction, just in case the Daylight Savings time difference had been applied incorrectly. I verified my predictions with other satellites which showed up right on time. I then cross checked my orbit predictions with three different satellite programs. They agree with each other very closely, but still no RS-10/11. Very strange indeed.

I also promised last time that I would review a DOS/Windows satellite tracking program. I took a brief look at several before selecting STSORBIT PLUS by David H Ransom, Jr. I am reviewing version 9650 dated December 1996. This is a copyrighted, shareware product. Registration is optional, inexpensive ($15) and recommended. Registration also provides a higher detail map database - more about that later.

STSORBIT PLUS attempts to recreate the live wall mission map at NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston. This wall map is 20 feet wide and shows the entire globe in cylindrical projection. STSORBIT PLUS shows cylindrical projection and orthographic projection. STSORBIT PLUS allows simultaneous tracking of one primary and 32 additional satellites in real time. It is used by the USAF Central Computer Complex at Cape Canaveral, by the DOD C-Band Radar Network at worldwide radar sites, and at several NASA and aerospace centers around the country. It is also made available to schools through NASA spacelink

STSORBIT PLUS requires a 386, 486, or 586 computer, math coprocessor highly recommended, and about 3Mb of hard drive space. A VGA display is recommended, although it will run on EGA in color, or monochrome in CGA or HGC. The program will run under DOS, Windows, Windows 95 and Windows-NT. The author says that it could be run from a floppy with some files omitted, but he doesn't recommend it. The program is available in two formats - self extracting and zip file formats. I received my version in the zip file format There were two files - SOP9650A.ZIP and SOP9650B.ZIP. I placed both in a directory I created especially for STS and unzipped them without any problems. This created several files. There were two documentation files - SETUP.DOC and STSPLUS.DOC. The SETUP.DOC file is a set of get-it-up-and-running-now instructions for the highly impatient, so naturally I started with that! The STSPLUS.DOC file contains everything (and I mean everything) else you want to know and is 218 pages long.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

One of the many nice things about this program is it's comprehensive documentation! You don't always see this level of documentation in a shareware product.

Giving the command line STSPLUS /NEW will start STSORBIT PLUS and tell it that this is a new setup. It will then prompt you for basic information that it needs to perform calculations - your location, time zone, daylight savings flag, and path to it's files. Your location needs to be entered in latitude, longitude, and elevation. STSORBIT PLUS comes with a file containing over 2100 cities. You can search this file for a nearby city, or you can enter the exact coordinates of your location. I chose the later method. There is a census database of US cities and their locations available via telnet at "martini.eecs.umich.edu 3000". STSORBIT PLUS works in local time and prompts you for an offset from UTC. It then asks you if daylight savings time is active. You are then shown paths to several files required by STSORBIT PLUS and allowed to change them if necessary. After this the main menu appears. This is shown in Figure 2.

STSORBIT PLUS uses Keplerian data elements in the NASA/NORAD 2 line format. This data is available from several sources. I usually get my data via ftp from "archive.afit.af.mil". The first menu item "F1 Convert Keplerian Data to 2-Line Format" will prompt you for new satellite data and construct a file in the 2 line format. The second menu item "F2 Read NASA/NORAD 2-Line Elements" allows selecting a satellite from a file containing the TLE elements. Once a satellite has been selected, you are sent directly to the maps.

STSORBIT PLUS will display the satellite tracking on one of several maps - orthographic, world, quadrant, location, tracking, zoom or motion maps. These maps are where STSORBIT PLUS really shines! The orthographic map displays a the earth as a globe. This is my favorite. When first displayed, the globe occupies the whole screen at magnification is 100%. You can then zoom in to increase magnification of the globe incrementally up to 4000%. This map data comes from the included EARTH4 database. Registration gives you access to an EARTH3 database with more detailed map data. Additional donations of $10 each will get you the EARTH2 and EARTH1 databases with even more detailed map data. The rectangular maps, world, quadrant, and location, show the world as a cylinder.

Continued on page 11

```
                    Program STSORBIT PLUS

            Space Shuttle and Satellite Orbit Simulation
                          Version 9650

              Current time:  18:03:18 CDT   23:03:18 UTC
              Current date:   26 MAY 1997    26 MAY 1997

F1      Convert Keplerian Data to 2-Line Format
F2      Read NASA/NORAD 2-Line Elements        (.TXT/.TLE Files)
F3      Pass Predictions and Data Output
F4      Tabular Satellite Positions       (TRAKSTAR by TS Kelso)
F5      Set Launch Time and/or Launch Date
F6      Set/Read/Save TDRS and Real Time Satellites
F7      Set FILENAMES and Paths
F8      Set program TIME and/or DATE
F9      DOS Shell            (CAUTION: DOS 3.x or higher ONLY!)
F10     Set STSORBIT PLUS Program Options and Features
ENTER   Resume Mission                                 (RS-12/13)
ESC     Quit STSORBIT PLUS and Save Current Mission

Select desired function:

WHILE MAP IS DISPLAYED:  F1 = HELP  ENTER = Main Menu
```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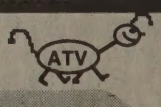
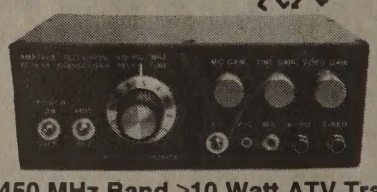


See who You are Talking to



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ATV is no more difficult or different than any voice mode except that you also plug in your camcorder to transmit, and your TV set to receive the picture. That's it - you're seeing as well as talking to other hams live and in color! No other radios, computers or other boxes needed to get on this live action video mode just like broadcast TV.

Show the shack, home video tapes, zoom in and describe projects, show computer graphics and programs, repeat SSTV or even Space Shuttle Video and audio if you have a TVRO. Go portable or mobile, do public service events, RACES, AREC, CAP, even transmit the local radio club meetings to those hams that can't make it.

DX is up to 90 miles snow free line of sight using 14 dBd beams. Adjustable RF output typically 2 to 14 watts p.e.p. to properly drive RF Concepts 4-110 100 Watt amp. Sensitive downconverter tunes whole 420-450 MHz band down to your TV ch 3. Check the ARRL Repeater Directory for ATV repeaters in your area or call us for info on other ATVers in your area. See the ATV section in chapter 12 of the ARRL Handbook.

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Tom (W6ORG) & MaryAnn (WB6YSS)

Continued from page 10

The quadrant maps break the world down into 12 separate quadrants. These smaller quadrants show more detail than is available in the full rectangular map. Still another map available is the rectangular zoom map. This map allows map widths of 180, 120, 90, 75, 60, 45, and 30 degrees via the Page Up and Page Down keys. Motion maps place the satellite in the center of the screen, and the map is redrawn. This is done in an dual page EGA mode where one page is displayed and the next map is redrawn in the second page of EGA memory. The two pages are then swapped, and the process continues. This can be done in both rectangular and orthographic modes. This gives an interesting perspective (the satellite's) in the orthographic mode. Location maps are centered on your location, and tracking maps are centered on the current tracking station's location

From the main menu, "F3 Pass Predictions and Data Output" will allow you to predict passes 48 hour increments from the current time, for the selected satellite. Predictions can be sent to a file, a serial port, or a parallel port. Other options for predicting passes are selecting all passes, visible passes, line of sight passes, UTC or local time, output 1 of 9 different data types for passes, passes above a minimum altitude, and a minimum horizon value. These last two will allow you to ignore low altitude passes which may be ineffective for communications.

The menu selection "F4 Tabular Satellite Positions (TRAKSTAR by TS Kelso" allows starting the program TRAKSTAR by TS Kelso. Yes, this is the Dr. T.S. Kelso, Adjunct Professor of Space Operations, Air Force Institute of Technology, who provides the Keplerian Data sets we all know, love and use, runs the Celestial BBS (334-409-9280 8N1) and more. This is one of two programs recommended by STSORBIT PLUS' author for tabular satellite pass predictions. The other is TRAKSAT by Paul Traufler. The author selected TRAKSTAR only because of memory constraints when running STSORBIT PLUS. In order to run TRAKSAT, you would have to exit STSORBIT PLUS and then run TRAKSAT. TRAKSTAR can be run from within STSORBIT PLUS. TRAKSTAR is available from the Celestial BBS or via ftp from "archive.afit.af.mil". TRAKSAT is available from RPV Astronomy BBS (310-541-7299).

I downloaded and have been using TRAKSTAR It's predicted satellite locations are said to be accurate to less than 1 meter, and it's look angles are accurate to between 0.01 and 0.1 degrees with current orbital data. To get predictions this accurate, it is also imperative to have the correct time. The author of STSORBIT PLUS explains in great detail the inaccuracy of PC clocks, something that I was unaware of. He says that time losses of 3 seconds per day are typical, although your PC may be better or worse! He talks about one computer which lost 30 seconds per hour! He discusses a variety of different methods of setting your PC clock and their inaccuracies - from your local radio stations to WWV to NIST/USNO telephone time service. He also suggests the use two shareware programs TIMESET by Peter Petrakis and RIGHTTIME by Tom Becker to help maintain your PC's time accurately. These programs are available from the Air Systems Technologies BBS (214-869-2780). STSORBIT PLUS is aware of RIGHTTIME, and TIMESET is aware of RIGHTTIME, making this a coordinated effort to keep you on-time and never late again!

"F5 Set Launch Time or Launch Date" allows you to enter launch data for a space shuttle flight from one of two launch pads from Cape Canaveral.

"F6 Set/Read/Save TDRS and Real Time Satellites" allows you to select satellites for tracking. You can enter up to 32 satellites in an .SCF file for tracking, select a target, or primary satellite. The primary satellite is the satellite for which the data is calculated. The target satellite data is calculated relative to the primary satellite.

"F7 Set FILENAMES and Paths" is used to set or change the various paths required by the program. "F8 Set program TIME and/or Date" provides time and date functions both real and simulated and access to RIGHTTIME corrections. "F9 DOS Shell" allows you to temporarily drop out of STSORBIT PLUS to execute a program from DOS. "F10 Set STSORBIT PLUS Program Options and Features" provides customization of STSORBIT PLUS. This includes display features, alarms, timers, map colors, satellite coordinates, printer logging and more.

Pressing "ENTER" from the main menu selects "Resume Mission" which sends you back to the maps. Once a map is displayed, you can switch between map types - world, quadrant, zoom, location, tracking, orthographic, and motion. You can switch between different time displays - UTC, local, mission elapsed time (MET), or time elapsed since the epoch date of the elements. You can enable printer logging of ascending and descending node data. You can pause the display, enable the satellite circle of visibility, switch units between kilometers, nautical miles, and statute miles. You can also switch the display between normal display and Doppler shift display. STSORBIT PLUS has the ability to read satellite frequencies from a file and calculate the Doppler shift. It will calculate the shifted frequency received by the satellite from your uplink signal, and the shifted frequency that you receive from the satellite. When in the Doppler shift display mode, you can use the Page Up / Down keys to change frequency. You can also enter FAST time, a simulated time mode where you can jump into the future where each time change is X10 or X60 seconds, instead of the normal X1 seconds.

I've just barely begun to describe the features of STSORBIT PLUS. If your PC lives in the DOS/Windows world and you are looking for a tracking program, you definitely need to check out this program. You won't be disappointed!

In the over the horizon news department, astronaut Michael Foale KB5UAC has replaced Jerry Linenger KC5HBR, aboard Mir. Jerry was aboard Mir for 4 months and survived several problems including smoke, Oxygen generation equipment problems, power supply problems and reduction in ham operation time. Michael is reportedly looking forward to talking with hams and is interested in more than just hello / signal report / goodbye QSO's. He has already been heard on 2m using a Kenwood 733.

Phase 3D launch is now set at mid-September time frame. Phase 3D designers are using the extra time constructively and are testing power, computer, receiver and transmitters systems. This satellite has the capability to place a warble tone on the downlink signal of any uplink signals which overpower the receiver. If the uplink signal continues to overpower the receiver, that downlink signal is automatically reduced in power. This delayed launch will mean extra expenses for AMSAT to the tune of $100,000 to $200,000, so they would appreciate any extra donations you would care to make.

The Iraseli's may launch a new ham satellite this year - Techsat 2. Check out web site "http://www.technion.ac.il/pub/projects/techsat/tech2" for details. There has been no change in the RS-16 transponder status. It is still not operational yet.

Well, that's about it for this issue. Next time I'll let you know if I solve the RS-10/11 mystery. I'm still chasing Mir hoping for a contact. I'll let you know more about that. I'm also trying to expand my horizons, looking for more birds to chase. 73 and see you next orbit.

CyberHam readers

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Shareware Reviews

Ronnie Cohen, KF4GHG

U.F.O.

The U.F.O. program has nothing to do with Hale-Bopp, E.T., or even outer space. It's a Universal File Operator (U.F.O.) that will save you time and aggravation. U.F.O. features easy-to-use DOS shell options, on-line help, archive file support (ZIP, ARJ, LZH and RAR), and much more.

U.F.O. operates with dual window directory options. The program's main screen can be configured to display a directory tree and single directory, drive data and a directory or two different directories. Each window can be sorted individually by file name, size or date.

You can launch or operate on files from either of U.F.O.'s display windows. The right mouse button or the enter key runs any executable program. The F2 function key provides access to a user defined launch menu for running programs not on the two display windows.

Function keys, a menu system or a mouse, are used for basic file and directory operation. The user can delete, rename, change file attributes, move or copy files with one or two key strokes. Making and removing directories are as simple as pressing the F7 and F8 keys.

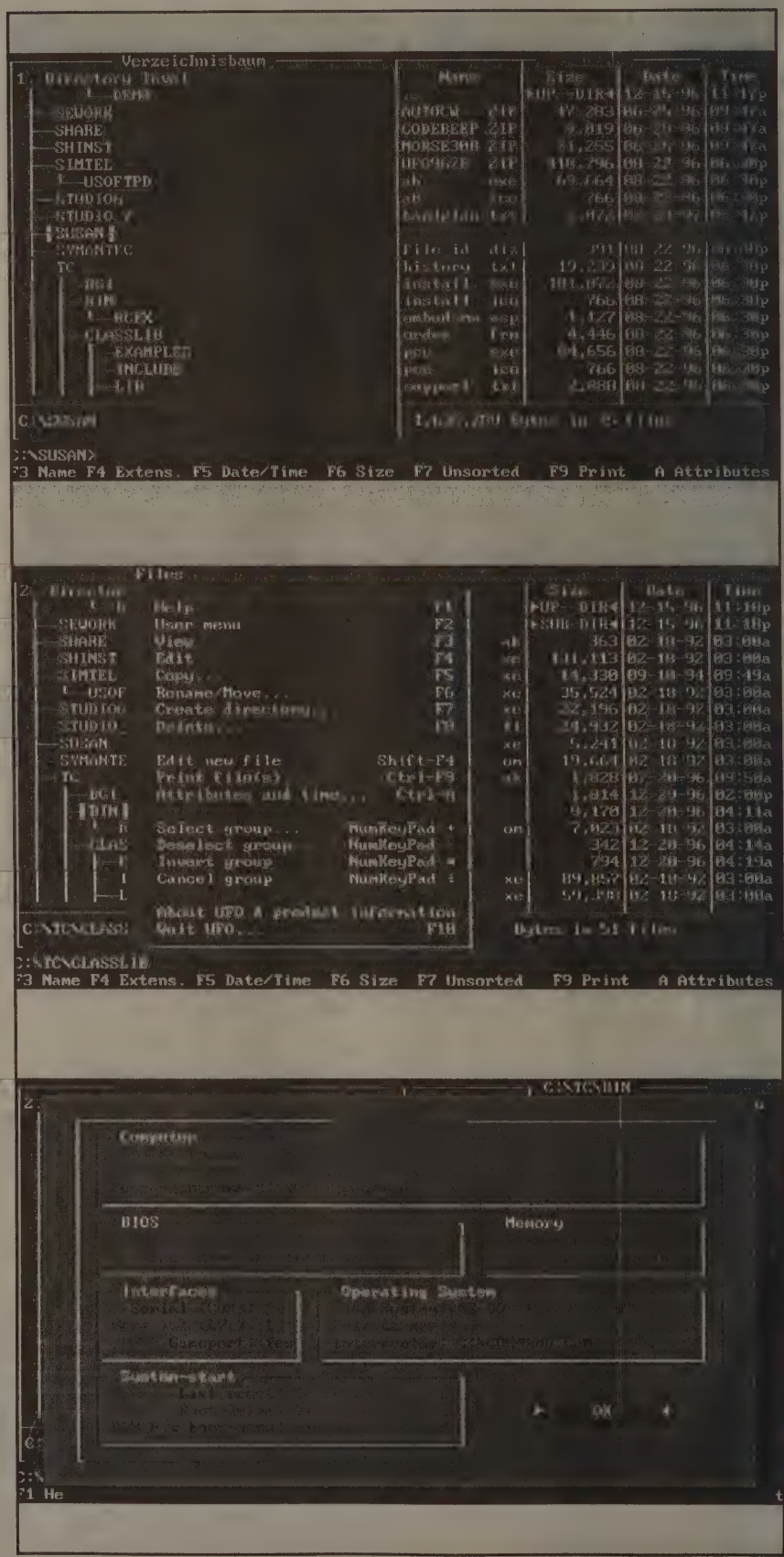
U.F.O. features a powerful internal text editor and file viewer. The editor is mouse supported and features multi-file editing options. U.F.O.'s editor features cut and paste as well as find and replace options. The file viewer displays text or hex files.

Two of U.F.O.'s most powerful and unique features are it's archiving options and extra tools. U.F.O. operate on the most popular (ZIP, ARJ, LZH) archive formats. In addition it provides support for the RAR archive format.

U.F.O. features four tools to exam and diagnosing a PC-system. The first two tools will help you remove temporary files and amount of space used by a particular file formats. Encode is a file security program to protect your files. The PC-Equipment program provides system, drivers and DOS environment information.

U.F.O. operates on an 80286 (AT) system, with 412K Ram, and a Hard Drive. The program runs with any type monitor and requires MS-DOS 3.3. Registration is $25.00 and well worth the investment. Besides getting the legal right to use the program you receive the latest version and no Shareware nag screens.

For more information about U.F.O. or for a free disk catalog and coupon, please contact Mom 'N' Pop's Software, P.O. Box 15003-HD, Spring Hill, FL. 34609, (352) 688-9108.



RF exposure update

The FCC has revised the power level thresholds to trigger a routine Amateur Radio station RF exposure evaluation, and the changes will be welcome news for most hams. When the FCC first decreed a year ago that ham radio stations would have to comply with RF exposure guidelines, it set a 50-W threshold level. The updated guidelines, announced August 25, increase that threshold level on all HF bands except 10 meters, where it remains at 50 W. The FCC made no changes in the RF exposure limits it announced last year.

The new RF safety guidelines are scheduled to become effective January 1, 1998, for Amateur Radio stations.

The FCC went along in part with a request by the ARRL to establish a sliding scale for threshold levels, depending upon frequency. The revised thresholds are 500 W for 160 through 40 meters, 425 W on 30 meters (where the maximum permissible power is 200 W), 225 W on 20 meters, 125 W on 17 meters, 100 W on 15 meters, 75 W on 12 meters and 50 W on 10 meters. The threshold for all VHF bands is 50 W. On UHF, the threshold level is 70 W on 70 cm, 150 W on 33 cm, 200 W on 23 cm, and 250 W on 13 cm and above. Stations operating at or below these respective power levels are categorically excluded from having to perform a routine RF radiation evaluation. However, all stations, regardless of power level, still must comply with the RF exposure limits.

Along with its August 25 Second Memorandum Opinion and Order announcing the changes, the FCC released the "core" text of its long-awaited Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Bulletin 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields. The bulletin contains generic equations that can be used to analyze fields due to almost all antennas, although the FCC warns that "the resulting estimates for power density may be overly conservative in some cases." Hams leery of formulas might opt to wait for the easier-to-use Supplement B to OET Bulletin 65, which will include information designed specifically for evaluating Amateur Radio installations. The supplement promises to detail how hams can determine more simply if their individual stations comply with the new regulations. The FCC says the supplement will contain "information on projected minimum exclusion distances from typical amateur antenna installations."

The FCC said it would issue Supplement B "as soon as a review of the current draft is complete." When it's ready, Supplement B will be available to download from the FCC's Web site, http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety. The FCC directed inquiries as to the availability of the supplement and other RF-related questions to its RF Safety Program, 202-418-2464; e-mail rfsafety@fcc.gov.

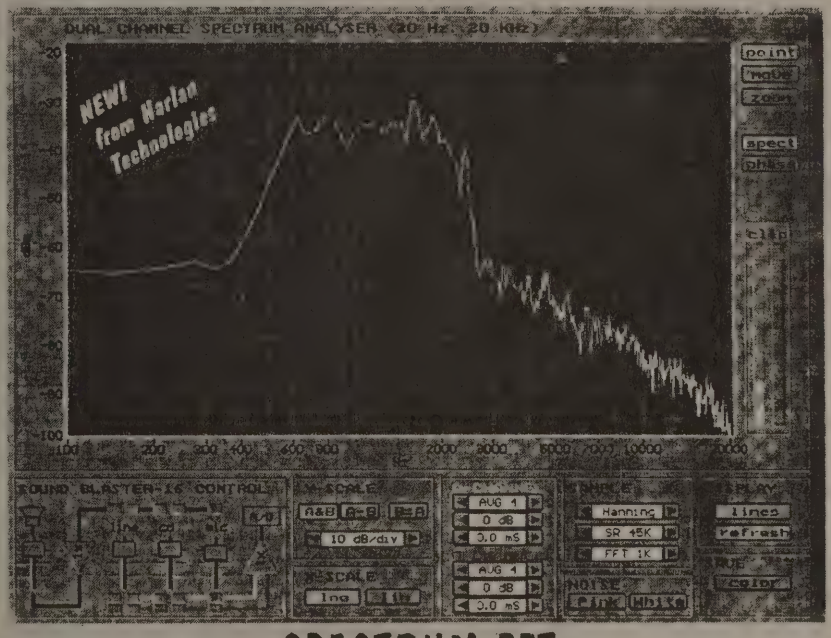
Last year, the FCC established time-averaged maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits for RF fields in two tiers—for controlled environments (ie, a ham's immediate household, including visitors) and uncontrolled environments (ie, neighbors, the general public). If a routine evaluation of a ham station indicates that human exposure to RF fields could be in excess of the FCC's MPE limits, the licensee must act to correct the problem and ensure compliance. This could include changing operating patterns, relocating antennas, restricting access, changing frequency, output power or emission type or any combination of these and other remedies.

The FCC says that ham radio facilities "represent a special case for determining exposure, since there are many possible antenna types that could be designed and used for amateur stations."

The revised regulations categorically exclude most mobile installations, including those in the Amateur Radio Service, from having to comply with the RF-exposure or station evaluation guidelines. Since the FCC issued its guidelines, additional questions on RF safety have been added to the Amateur Radio examination question pool.

OET Bulletin 65 and the FCC Second Memorandum Opinion and Order are available at http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et93-62/. More details on the FCC's latest announcement on RF safety will appear in the October issue of QST.

-ARRL Letter



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Air Force MARS - Carl Houston, Jr. (AFF2P), Editor

When the famous writer Mark Twain was in his heyday, it was said that his work, when published, was worth five dollars per word. That price for a story was almost unheard of in those times. Once, someone sent the author a five dollar bill and asked Mr. Twain to send him the word he thought most appropriate. The wit wrote back "THANKS". Come to think of it, that word doesn't get used enough these days.

The Virginia MARS members do, however, wish to THANK the affiliates in region 2 and others from other regions that helped make the recent conference in Lynchburg a huge success. The affiliates that attended also THANK the conference planners for such a great, well-organized meeting. All R2 states were represented and affiliates from as far away as Miami were present.

Each presenter had a wealth of information to share with the members, and in each case, was well received. The first presenter, Dennis Welch, AFA2FZ, of Virginia, talked on "MARS-Then and Now", the changes we have seen and the future as we envision it. Dennis instilled a very good prospective to the listeners on what we may have to occur in the next few years. AFF2P, Carl Houston, followed up with some other ideas as to what lies ahead and what we may expect from MARS if we give the best effort possible to support our communities with our service.

The RMD, Vic Carson, gave an update on the region administrative status and the changes he has seen from his point of contact. It seems that region two is in very good condition, and has been instrumental in getting the new database software up and running before other regions. Vic has spent quite a bit of personal time on this project and is to be complimented for his efforts.

AFF2N, Larry Jones, brought us up to date in the net management areas. Larry has worked diligently over the last few months to insure that the net control stations and newer NCSs are trained and capable of superior performance in their duties. Whether or not this latest training has worked, we have some of the best NCSs on any regional net, I am sure.

The fact that AF MARS is taking a more challenging role, emergency communications support, as our primary mission, was discussed by AFF2E, Gerald Hensley, at length. Assisted as usual by his YL, Pat, also a MARS member, and also with interesting assistance from AFF1E, from the state of Maine, their presentation was very impressive. AFF2E and AFF1E have been working together on their Ecom plans and it has paid off. They

Virginia Conference '97

presented an emergency response program that seems to be very easily workable if ever needed.

Bob Wilford, AFA2SW, Kentucky, had very noteworthy comments on the phone patch program. He also had several members interested in becoming qualified to assist in the program, and answered their questions about becoming a phone patch station. We also have a news story concerning the phone patch program and how it helped in a crucial matter, which will be reported later, as soon as details are worked out.

Our region two techno-wizard, Jeffrey (Bix) Bixby,AFA2EA/AFF2M, talked on a very interesting subject, NVIS antennas. NVIS, the acronym for Near-Vertical-Incidence-Skywave, is the procedural method for using an antenna system to propagate in a close area to contact stations in a few hundred miles only, such as intra-state, etc. The antenna is configured so that the signal will travel in an almost vertical path, and bounce from the E or F layer and come back down at a close range to the transmitter. This can be very beneficial to keep in contact with other stations in a "local" net. Charles Sheffer, AFA2DB, reported on the procurement and status of surplus equipment. Charlie has been diligently pursuing alternate means and sources of equipment at depots, and when details are worked out, may have possibly found a very good "new" source of operational equipment. We will have more on this later.

The presentations were capped by a very detailed lecture on the ways to effectively ground your station equipment to avoid a potential problem. The presentation was made by a retired General Electric engineer, who was very thorough and explained each detail. Most of the affiliates have had a lot of thoughts about whether their equipment is safe or not, after receiving this information.

After dinner, Chief Collins spoke on the state of the MARS program from his viewpoint. It seems that a lot of new and exciting things lay ahead for us, and we will remain "in business". THANKS, Chief, for attending our conference and bringing the news from HQ.

Congratulations go out to the members in Virginia who put together such a good conference: AFF2VA, Bill Conaway, SMD, Harold, AFA2UN, Mac, AFA2XB, and Bob, AFA2NR, and Bix and Dennis (hope I left no one out). Great job, guys! The 1998 conference will be hosted by the state of Kentucky. The exact location will be under study and released at a later date. Good luck to Henry, AFF2KY, and his assistants in their upcoming endeavors.

AWARDS. The following members were presented awards at the ceremony following dinner: AFA2NM, AFA2NR, AFA2BP, AFA2FL, AFF2TN, AFF2F, AFA2FP, AFA2NV, AFA2PV, AFA2UU, AFA2ZV, AFF2FL, AFA2FV, AFA2XE, AFF2T, AFA2GR, AFA2TO, AFF2KY, AFA2HM, AFA2CS, AFF2GA, AFA2UB, AFF2AO, AFA2EM, AFA2WQ, AFA2BF, AFA2EE, AFA2SN, AFA2TQ, AFA2AO, AFF2NC, AFA2XM, AFA2RQ, AFA2QW, AFA2NB, AFA2MF, AFA2JH, AFA2ER, AFA2UH, AFA2ES, AFA2NI, AFA2CE, AFA2BL, AFA2BE, AFA2FK, AFA2BA, AFA2PI, AFA2DB, AFA2HX, AFF2E, AFA2FW, AFA2FG, AFA2DO, AFA2AG, AFA2KH, AFA2AE, AFA2GY, AFA2HR, AFA2TV, AFA2FK, AFA2GO, AFA2VH, AFA2LF, AFA2YT, AFA2ZS, AFA2JE, AFA2KS, AFA2EZ, AFA2WK, AFF2O, AFA2DS, AFA2SW, AFA2XZ, AFF2M, AFA2WJ, AFA2PN, AFF2N, AFA2FZ, AFF2P, AFA2XO, AFF2C, AFA2UN, AFF2VA, and AFF2AL. The amount of awards given shows the dedication and hard work that these individuals have done to help Region 2 AF MARS achieve such an outstanding status in the entire program. A special THANKS is in order for all...keep up the good work.

One of the top awards was given to the retiring AFF2K, John Cox, AFA2TS. John has served us well as the packet coordinator, and is handing the reins over to Bud Campbell, AFA2FK. John will continue to maintain his excellent web page, continually updating it with the latest AF MARS information. Let's all support John with noteworthy ideas so he can post them on the web site. THANKS, John, you have also done a great job.

Although we didn't hear any tax news from Vollie Miller, AFA2MZ, he was attendant at the conference. Inci-

dentally, he was recently appointed Assistant State MARS Director for the middle Tennessee area by Herb Ploch, SMD. Congratulations, Vollie.

TRIVIA. In the last issue of the SKIP we had a tribute to a fallen comrade, General James Stewart, or Jimmy, as he would prefer to be known. Gen. Stewart retained his military commitment to this country after he served in WW2 as a B-17 combat pilot, becoming a reservist on occasional active duty.

Harry Matus, AFA2BU, of Bayonet Point, FL has sent information that another AF MARS member, Dave Sweeney, AFA2YB, also of Florida, not only had the honor of meeting then-Colonel Stewart, but of having the extreme pleasure of flying a mission with him!

A B-52 bomber pilot in South Vietnam, Capt. David Sweeney met the actor there in the 1960s.

■ A south Masaryktown resident flew with Jimmy Stewart in Vietnam. The actor was a colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

By NANCY WEIL
Times Staff Writer

David Sweeney remembers the day he gave up his seat to Jimmy Stewart. But Sweeney didn't move in deference to Stewart's fame as an actor — he was making way for Col. Stewart.

Sweeney was a 25-year-old Air Force captain in the 441st Bomb Squadron. He cannot recollect if it was 1965 or 1966, but

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According to Dave, who was a 1960s B-52 pilot with the 441st Bomb Squadron with missions to Vietnam, Col. Stewart flew one mission with his crew. Recalling the events, he remembers that Jimmy was an "excellent" pilot, and was very calm and collected at all times during the briefing and mission, just as we have always seen him in his movies. He never seemed to try to be a special person, and seemed upset if treated as such. He talked to all of the crew, mostly about their hometowns, and told of his early years in his. Dave has some old pictures that he took of that incident, and has shared them with local news media and us.

Dave is now 57, and programming manager in the Pasco County (FL) data control division. He still flies, is an instructor and serves as a part-time Brooksville police officer. THANKS, Dave, for sharing this story with us.

See you-all next month, and as always,

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.

AZDEN leaving the US HAM Radio Market

A player in the US ham radio market since the 1970s, Azden is leaving the Amateur Radio business in this country as of August 31. A letter from Azden's Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, cited "the worldwide decline of the business" as the reason for the move. "We entered the US market through this office very late in the game and with older product," Reinberg's letter states. "The lack of growth of the end-user base made it impossible for us to spend the huge amount of capital necessary to design and tool up for a more advanced model."

Azden's pullout applies only to the US market. Azden Vice President Ken Bush said this week that Azden radios continue to be sold in Japan.

Among Azden's product lineup were similar FM mobile transceivers for several bands. The company also marketed some H-Ts and a headset. The company's remaining ham radio inventory has been sold to Amateur Electronic Supply (800-558-0411;

http://www.aesham.com;

e-mail help@aesham.com).

Reinberg said that while Azden will stop selling ham radio gear in the US, the company will continue to repair its radios at its Franklin Square, New York, headquarters "for the foreseeable future." Parts and manuals for Azden gear will continue to be available as well.

Sid Wolin, K2LJH, manager of Azden's Communications Division, reportedly plans to retire. Reinberg says he will remain at Azden's Franklin Square office to handle customer questions and process service and repair orders.

For more information, call Azden at 516-328-7500; e-mail azdenus@aol.com; http://www.azdencorp.com.

Greater Daytona Beach Hamfest and Computer Show

Saturday, September 27,1997
9:00AM to5:00 PM.

The **ERARA** and **DBARA** clubs have joined together to bring you a special day of bargains and fun. The ERAU campus is located just 2 miles from the heart of Daytona's shopping center, good food, and fine restaurants. The XYL and children can shop or visit the World's Most Famous Beach which is just 20 minutes away.

The hamfest location will be the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Campus located on Clyde Morris Blvd., just south of International Speedway (U.S. 92).

Talk-in will be on 147.150+600 starting at 8:30 A.M.

Coffee and donuts will be available between 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.. Lunch will be provided at modest cost by Embry Riddle student organizations.

Admission is $5.00 at the door.

For advance tickets at $4.00 mail check or money order along with a SASE to DBARA Hamfest, PO Box 9852, Daytona Beach, FL 32120 before September 10,1997.

Don't worry about the weather. This is an air conditioned, indoor event with acres of paved parking. Handicap parking is provided.

There will be forums, ARRL license exams, and a hidden transmitter hunt with a $50.00 cash prize.

Special beach-side hotel/motel rates are available for those wishing to stay at the beach. For information call I -800-874-7420 before August15th and ask for the special "Daytona Beach Hamfest" rates. After the 15th rooms will be on an "as available" basis.

E-MAIL— k4bv@juno.com

Web site— http://erau.db.erau.edu/~stokess/hamfest.html

DBARA Hamfest, P.O. Box 9850, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

Internet Update

Professional Cartoonists Index

If you love cartoons, and especially the editorial cartoons, from newspapers, you should like this site. The Professional Cartoonists Index includes 27 daily updated features editorial cartoons from top cartoonists including Pulitzer Prize winners Mike Luckovich, Jeff MacNelly, Signe Wilkinson and Mike Peters. The site is host to the largest collection of current, updating cartoons on the web, including strips like Non-Sequitur, Shoe, One Big Happy, Mother Goose & Grimm, Dennis the Menace and many more. There are also links to over 600 associated pages on the Internet. World Wide Web: **http://www.cagle.com**

Help Nailing Spammers

If you are trying to stop unsolicited mail to your site, or track down the source of an attack, there are several tools available to help. You can find out more about them, and access them, at this site, which also includes a lot of information about how to stop spam or track down those responsible. World Wide Web: **http://kryten.eng.monash.edu.au/gspam.html**

Searching The World Over

For Internet users looking for information, searches aren't just confined to the big US search engines any more. A growing number of engines serving local users throughout the world are online and offering a better choice than some of the major ones, depending on what you are looking for. A large selection of such engines are listed here. World Wide Web: **http://home.earthlink.net/~guliaka/search/**

Latest News From The World Of Windows

The Locker Gnome Online is a free electronic newsletter that gets mailed out to 47,000 subscribers every ten days. If you join, you'll get news on the latest 32-bit software, Web sites, themes, fonts, updates and patches, tips and tricks, computer industry news, and much more! You can subscribe from the Web site. World Wide Web: **http://www.lockergnome.com/ What Do They Know About You?**

Primarily of interest to US readers, because most of the semi-private information on the Internet is about them, this page will help alert you to how much information is available about you, both on the Internet and in other commercial database services. You can also learn about technology such as cookies. World Wide Web: **http://www.delphi.com/navnet/privacy.html**

Joke A Day Hits 50,000 Subscribers

The joke a day mailing list has just passed the 50,000 subscriber mark. Serving 118 countries around the world, the mailing list sends out a new joke each day and is the world's largest humor mailing list on the Internet. "We receive hundreds of letters telling us what a great way to start their day. Their first cup of coffee and to see what 'funny' thing Joke A Day has to say," says the operator. To subscribe, send any message to the address below, or visit the Web site. E-mail: join@jokeaday.com

World Wide Web: **http://www.jokeaday.com**

Non Stop City On The Web

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) has debuted a new Web site. It is intended to serve as a resource for business and leisure travelers, as well as convention planners and travel agents. One of the organizers explained, "With the simple click of a mouse, people the world over can find out which entertainers are in town, get an update on the weather, and make other Las Vegas travel and convention plans."

World Wide Web: **http://www.lasvegas24hours.c**

TRAC Keeps Tabs On U.S. Gov't Agencies

While some agencies of the U.S. Government are closely scrutinized and watched, others are not. The Transactional Records Clearinghouse (TRAC) from Syracuse University watches agencies like the FBI, Internal Revenue Service, Drug Enforcement Administration and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms by bringing together information from many sources. Registration is required, but is free. World Wide Web: **http://trac.syr.edu/tracfbi/**

Digital Bras And More In Australia

Icon, a digital magazine from the Sydney Morning Herald, includes lots of interest for Internet users including an online jukebox, FAQs on popular questions, information and general news from the Internet plus Net TV, an on demand database on video interviews and news clips from Australian TV. You can find out about the digital bra, everyone's computer wish list and the answer to the question, "If they can fly to Mars, why can't they make a laptop last the flight to Brisbane?" World Wide Web: **http://www.smh.com.au/icon/**

Finding Auto Parts Quickly

Parts Voice is online to help you find auto parts more easily. The service offers a database of 30-million different parts from 21-manufacturers, all retrievable by OEM part number or description. The company has a network of 7,000 dealers so can also point you towards a local source for the equipment you need. World Wide Web: **http://www.partsvoice.com**

Digital Still Cameras Compared

If you're shopping for a digital camera, the following page may provide some help. It contains 14 images taken with different digital still cameras, that will be useful for limited comparison purposes. Unfortunately, although images are similar, they were not all taken in exactly the same place and the model even changed dresses for some meaning a more exacting comparison is difficult. World Wide Web: **http://www.normancamera.com/digital/compare1.htm**

Music Super Site Opens To The Internet

If you are, or used to be, a member of America Online then you will surely have come across The Velvet Rope, an online music industry community on the online service. Now, the system has left America Online and is available on the general Internet. The new "Velvet Rope" bulletin board will continue to admit music industry insiders by invitation from the moderator and the producers are working together to expand the site to provide additional music and music industry-related content that will be accessible to every web surfer. World Wide Web: **http://www.velvetrope.com**

New Software - CoolChecka 2.0

CoolChecka is a utility for Windows 95 and NT users that allows users to quickly check their POP3 e-mail accounts for new messages without having to start an e-mail client. The software is free and will check an unlimited number of accounts for new mail, advising the user how much mail is waiting. You can also use it as a simple mail reader to check the contents of the messages. World Wide Web: **http://coolchecka.home.ml.org**

New Software - Drop It Makes Online Forms Easy

If you have to enter information in online forms a lot, or just ever get tired of entering the same information again and again, DropIt for Windows 95 could help. Dropit makes it quick and easy to fill out those forms by keeping your information in a list box. This is shareware, registration is $10. World Wide Web: **http://www.flash.net/~castman/dropit.htm**

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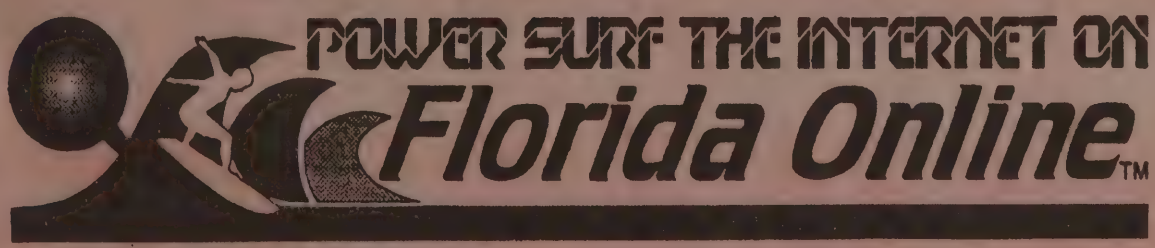
Owned and operated by KC4UFI (Jerry Russell), and KD4MIW (Sharon Russell).

For more information, or to sign up, please call:

In Brevard County: **635-8888**

Toll-free statewide: **1-800-676-2599**



Chapter 128, Pelican

The Pelican Chapter #128 held their July meeting at Stacey's Buffet. This being a summer meeting, it was an informal meeting with no business conducted. However, the Pelicans were pleased to have two applications for membership, from Lorraine Witkowski WA1EDR and Leonard Witkowski K1QPJ. The Pelicans welcome them both to the covey of "Big Brown Birds."

The Pelican "Big Brown Bird" picnic was discussed and plans continue to be formulated for this affair which will take place November 19th at shelter #13 at Lake Seminole Park, Park Blvd. and Lake Seminole. Tickets are available from Don Bice, W4PCO. Menu will be Chicken, all the trimings and prizes. See Don or call him at 813-347-2707

J. Fredrick Strom, K9BSL - Pelican Secretary

Chapter 32, Gator

The Gator Chapter held their August meeting at Stacey's Buffet in Clearwater August 2nd. Our summer meetings are informal - without a program but about 30 came to visit and ragchew. Our Program Chairman, Don Bice, W4PCO gave a preview of the Fall programs for October through December. Members present were urged to ring in new members for these fine programs. Our Chapter needs to grow.

The next meeting will be September 6th at Stacey's in Clearwater.

Frank S. Obenauf, W2IAJ - President

Greetings from Kansas City!

The Mid-Continent Chapter 35 of QCWA extends this very special invitation to all QCWA members. Come celebrate with us, the 50th anniversary of the Quarter Century Wireless Association

October is a delightful season in Missouri. "Our fair city" has much more to offer than you might imagine. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is within walking distance of one of the nation's most outstanding shopping districts. Several excelient restaurants and two world-class art museums are just a few steps away.

The formal meeting of QCWA is scheduled for Saturday 11 October at 1515. Further information and registration forms can be found in the QCWA Journal. Browse our web site: www.qni.com/~wa0gkz. We look forward to seeing you in the "Heart of America"!

Profile of ALAN PICKERING KJ9N

Mr. Pickering is a candidate for National QCWA Director from Florida who currently has no representation on the Board of Directors.

Alan J. Pickering, was born and reared in Joplin, Mo. where he worked as both an announcer and engineer for radio Station WMBH/WMBH-FM while still in high school. After military service as a PBY pilot in the Naval Air Corps, he completed his B.S. at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, working for KFKU-FM and WREN as an engineer and announcer. After a brief stint as an engineer for the Pittsburgh Electromelt Furnace Company in Pittsburgh, PA, he returned to school for a Masters degree at the University of Chicago and then a doctorate in Middle Eastern languages and literatures at the University of Cincinnati. He received the Amateur Call of W8ULS during this time.

Dr. Pickering subsequently returned to the University of Kansas to teach and received the call K5JTW. He was an active member of several traffic nets, a member of Air Force MARS, and two local radio clubs. In 1960 he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Nebraska, where over the next ten years he directed and produced over 400 educational television programs related to the history and literature of the middle east and the origins of the physical sciences, upgraded to an advanced class license and re-instated his first class commercial radio-telephone and radar endorsement certificates. He was president of the Lawrence Amateur Radio Club.

In 1970 he joined the YMCA of the USA as their National Training Manager, responsible for the management education of 9700 professional YMCA executives, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. During that period Dr. Pickering traveled and taught extensively in Europe, the middle East and Northern Africa. In 1978 he met the requirements for an amateur Extra license and in 1981 the FCC assigned him the call of KJ9N. He was twice president of the Libertyville and Mundelein Amateur Radio Society and operated 4U1ITU on several occasions when attending meetings in Geneva. He continues to travel and teach overseas annually as the president and CEO of the Center for the Performing Social Sciences.

Since moving to Florida in 1991, Dr. Pickering has been twice elected president of the South Hillsborough Amateur Radio Klub (S.H.A.R.K.), has been vice-president and then president of the Florida West Coast DX Ring, has also been vice-president and president of Pelican Chapter 128 of the QCWA, and is also an active member of the Sun City Center Chapter 195. He is an active participant in several HF and VHF nets, including those aftiliated with the QCWA.

REMINDER:

Please consider checking into the QCWA national nets. The CW net is on Wednesday at 1000ET on 7035. The SSB net is on Sunday at 2000ET on 14,347.

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Florida Traffic Nets

Florida Midday Traffic Net (FMTN)

This July had to have been a record-breaker! Down here in southern Florida we had heavy rain almost every day, and unbelievable amounts of deadly lightning, high winds and even a few tornados that touched-down in Miami, Sunrise, and Tamarac! Propagation has been very poor to begin with, and these storms have made the static-crashes almost continuous during the Nets. It's times like these that our Net Members come shining—through, and show how professional they really are! Using relays and repeats, proper phonetics and great patience, they get the Traffic going where it needs to go, accurately with efficiency and dispatch!

The month of July has brought changes in Management to many of the HF Traffic Nets, as well as representation to and from both Regional AND Area Nets. I would like to extend special thanks to Charlie NR2F, Gary KE4DNO, and Carroll W5MEN, for the Net-Liaison positions they have taken for the 4RN and RN5, as well as the responsibilities for the Tropical Phone Traffic Net, (TPTN).

Stats for the month of July were: Stations-283, Traffic-173, Time-447, and 31 sessions! To all of the members of FMTN I say: It was tough-going, propagation was very poor, but the Traffic got through! Now,.....LET'S DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN NEXT MONTH!

The Florida Mid-day Traffic Net meets daily at 1600Z (12-noon) on, or about 7247khz. Because of band-conditions, we sometimes find it necessary to move down to 7242khz. We start listing Traffic a few minutes before Net - time, so JOIN US, ANY-DAY, EVERY-DAY, ON MID-DAY!

73/88 Rich- KA2YZM, FMTN Net Mgr.

The Southeast Florida Traffic Net (SEFTN)

The Southeast Florida Traffic Net (SEFTN) met twice a day during July for a total of sixty two sessions. The summer doldrums are here. The thousandth check-in to the evening session came at the last minute of the last session of the month. Harold, KT4XK, was the NCS, and Al, K4BVL, was number 1,000.

We had our semi-annual picnic on July 19th at Veteran's Park in Lauderhill. Bob, KC4ZHF, and his wife Jan, organized the event and did the grill work. Those attending brought a "covered dish" to go along with the hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausages. Everything was delicious. The grilled Italian sausages were great! The picnic is a excellent opportunity to meet the hams with whom we speak every day — to put a face with a callsign and a voice. The picnics are held at approximately six month intervals, and all who check into the net are welcome to bring their families. Hope to see you this winter.

A good way to get into message handling is by copying the general net messages that KC4ZHF sends toward the end of each evening session. The first is a question, usually taken from the General Class license examination question pool. The second is the answer to the previous evening's question. You are invited to answer the question in NTS format. It is okay if the answer has already been given. If you are unfamiliar with the format, just make it known to the Net Control Station that you have traffic for KC4ZHF but will need a little help with the procedure.

SEFTN meets daily at 1130 and 1800 local time on 146.19/79 Mhz, the Motorola Amateur Radio Club repeater. The alternate frequency is 146.31/91, the Broward Amateur Radio Club repeater. Both sessions send representatives to the Section level NTS nets. New members are always welcome, so please join us. No experience in traffic handling is necessary, and all properly licensed Hams are invited to take part.

July SEFTN Statistics (Total/Average)

Session	Stations	Messages	Minutes
EARLY	421/13.6	68/2.2	462/14.9
LATE	1000/32.3	237/7.6	1722/55.5
TOTALS	**1421/45.8**	**305/9.8**	**2184/70.5**

73, Charles, WB4PAM

Florida Slow Speed CW Net QFNS

July Stats: QNI 178, QTC 95, QND 591 Sessions 31

After the first month as net manager, I am encouraged to hear some new stations checking in. We also appreciate having several of the experienced QFN stations supporting the net, realizing how difficult it may be for them to slow down to QFNS speed. A ten-minute CW code practice has been started following the Tuesday and Thursday night net sessions. The speed varies between 8 and 15 wpm is approximate two-minute segments with text taken from a recent QST for checking.

We are in the process of contacting clubs all over the state asking them to encourage their members to participate in QFNS as an all Florida National Traffic System Training Net. We hope to reach our goal of net representation from every major city in Florida. We ask your help in encouraging new licensees to join us on 3715 KHz at 8:00 PM EDT daily.

73, Chas KD4OGV QFNS Net Manager

WANTED: CW OPERATORS INTERESTED IN LEARNING NEW SKILLS

REWARDS: UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT, SHORT HOURS, AND FRIENDLY ASSOCIATES

LEARN TRAFFIC NET PROCEDURES, HOW TO COMPOSE, SEND , AND RECEIVE FORMAL MESSAGES ON A NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM NET

****

Being the new kid on the block, I hardly know where to start. First my thanks to KC4ZHF, KE4DNO, WX4H, and KA4FZI for their help and encouragement.

As a new net manager I ask for your help and understanding in trying to make QFNS a credit to the National Traffic System. Of course our direst need is more members. Our goal is to train operators to progress to FMSN and then to QFN. It is my belief that QFNS is the lifeblood of all Florida NTS nets. The more operators we can train the faster we can grow in the NTS.

All are welcome to join us daily at 8 PM EDT on 3715 KHz for QFNS - the All Florida Slow CW Training Net.

73/88 Chas KD4OGV QFNS Net Manager

Gator Net

Chris N4EKC is back from his travels but now going through some medical tests. Andy W4IYT is still busy with his video but scouting around for traffic. Mae and Al tell us they are meeting only their 20 meter skeds. WT4F moved to North Carolina. George K4JI has not returned to the net after having a bad fall. Dan W4DL admits he is not up to par but scrambling around for traffic. We thank N4FL, W4IYT, WA4EYU and W4VQQ for keeping our head above water. - Dan, W4DL

Knights of the Kilocycle - Don Browne (KO4YM), Editor

Knights return from vacations

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating it's 67th year. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been 545 permanent memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net. And here goes the Knightly News:

Quite a few of the Knights have been out off and on during the summer months for vacations and visits with family. But each week sees more members returning to the Sunday morning net.

Herb, AD4UA has returned from vacation and has resumed the invocations for the beginning of each net.

Bob, K4VDX reported having a good time in California and especially liked the steam train ride through the mountains.

Stan, W4JKK of Melbourne visited his son in Tahoe again for a few weeks. Stan and wife also celebrated their anniversary last month.

John, W4UGQ of Pt. Charlotte is back after an absence while taking on a new job. John also reports doing some flying at the Charlotte County airport with one exciting experience with some spins over the practice area. Bill, W4TAD of Largo checked in after not being heard for a while. Good to hear from you Bill.

A new checkin was heard from Frank, K2ZSN of Seminole. All you need is five checkins to get your certificate as a member of the Knights, Frank! WA0FRP, Doc should have become a new Knight but missed his fifth checkin. He would have made his five consecutive checkins and be entitled to the membership ceremony and his certificate. Doc is a friend of Jay, K9BSL who encouraged Doc to check in. Doc couldn't get to a phone to make his 5th by phone patch with Jay. Keep tryin' Doc! Dorothy, N4TXT of Springhill moved into a new apartment and will have to figure out how to get some antennas up for the net. Any hints from members? Marion, KC4MFT of New Port Richey reminded the net about members Shirley Hill, W4WPD and Earl Hill, W4YFR in Pensacola. They have been members since the 50s. Earl has been ill and all wishing to say hello or send a card may write to: Earl Hill, 8004 Eastwood Ln., Pensacola, Fl. 32514.

Looks like we are at the beginning of the next sun spot cycle and the sun activity is slowing but surely becoming more active, making for improved propagation over the next five or six years. The index is now about 75 and look for about 100 before propagation will be excellent worldwide. For those who have computers and internet access, please check out my web site at: http://members.aol.com/browne. I have music on most of the pages and even morse code playing in the background on the ham pages. The amateur radio pages include Florida and Southwest Florida ham info, listings of area hams in three counties, online callbooks, and the latest Knights of the Kilocycle news as well as two QCWA chapter newsletter briefs. Also check out the ham radio web links I've mentioned in writing articles for the former Cyberham magazine and the online yellow pages and white phonebook pages. The Knights encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your town. We welcome all hams from anyone that can hear us. Invite your friends to listen and call in Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning.

One less Little LEO

The Little LEO industry that has been seeking access to spectrum below 1 GHz, including amateur bands, is about to have one less player. On July 14, CTA Incorporated of Rockville, Maryland, and Orbital Sciences Corporation of Dulles, Virginia, announced an agreement for Orbital to purchase CTA's satellite manufacturing and communications service business units. The deal is expected to close in August.

Orbital is already in a joint venture with Teleglobe to provide Little LEO services through Orbital Communications Corp. (ORBCOMM). ORBCOMM's system is already licensed and is operational on a limited basis. Uplinks are 2400 bps FSK in the 148-149.9 MHz band and user downlinks are 4800 bps FSK in the 137-138 MHz band, with beaconing in the 400-401 MHz band. In its press release announcing the acquisition, Orbital said that a CTA service it had purchased, called GEMtrak, may be expanded to use the ORBCOMM network in the future. GEMtrak is a system for tracking truck trailers and rail cars and their cargoes.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, noted that the combining of CTA's satellite business with ORBCOMM's will reduce by one the number of companies seeking Little LEO licenses. "CTA was one of the companies that sponsored the ill-conceived and controversial 'flexible allocation' proposal that we had to oppose earlier this year," he said. "ORBCOMM did not endorse the flexible allocation concept."

The Little LEO issue is on the agenda for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-97) to be held this fall. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, is a member of the US delegation. The US is now finalizing its proposals for the conference. At this point, no US Little LEO proposal for WRC-97 would affect ham radio. -ARRL

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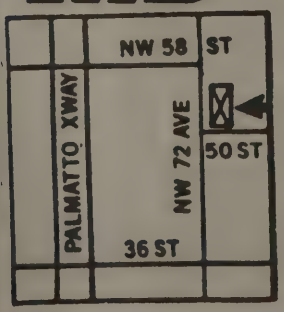

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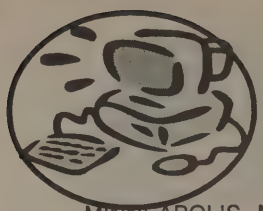

The computer did it!

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 18 (NB) — By Leonard Lee.

Texas Water Customers Getting Soaked

City officials in Freeport, Texas say a computer error has resulted in city water customers being overbilled for the last seven years. The overbillings total nearly $100,000. But the city council says it will not issue any refunds. City officials say individual refunds would be small, some users have moved out of the city, and the city would have to review more than 300,000 individual bills to determine how much each user was owed. It is estimated that 560 customers were each overbilled about $170.

No Water Under His Bridge

A Brandon, Florida man thinks his water bill is all wet. Last September, Mark Proctor received a monthly water bill for $799. The bill claimed Proctor, his wife and 10-year old son used 194,100 gallons of water, or about 6,000 gallons a day. Proctor insists his family is not that thirsty, and that he is the victim of a computer glitch by the city's water department. He notes that subsequent meter readings are more in line with his previous monthly average. The Hillsborough County Commission agreed to reduce his bill to $417, but no lower. Proctor refused to pay, and last week his water was cut off. He has since moved his family into a hotel and vows to remain there until the matter is resolved.

Credit Crisis

A British man wants more than an apology after a bank computer apparently ruined his credit rating. Abbey National Bank officials say a computer error resulted in the credit records of about 100 borrowers erroneously listing them as being in default on their mortgages. The records were sent on to a leading credit-reference agency which is used by thousands of financial institutions. The bank says the records have since been corrected. However, John Deighton of Chelmsford, Essex is suing Abbey National for libel, claiming that he previously had a flawless credit history, and suffered embarrassment when his loan application with Barclays Bank was refused. He claims Abbey National's correction to his records was also libelous, since it did not delete all references to the erroneous default, but instead merely listed it as "settled." Deighton has enlisted the help of Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners, which has developed a reputation as one of England's leading libel law practices by helping leading film stars and politicians deal with libel and slander cases against tabloid newspapers. Deighton's attorneys have turned down a settlement offer of 500 British pounds, and are hoping a court will award them damages on the order of 10,000 pounds.

E-mail news clippings of interesting computer glitches to doctorglitch@geocities.com

FTC Stops Some Net Scams

If you think Uncle Sam doesn't surf the Web, think again. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) wiped out a number of possible illegal online schemes after recent cyber-safaris.

Printing On Demand

IBM and Adobe Systems introduced what they called the fastest PostScript on-demand printing system going. IBM said that the system will be able to output 464 customized impressions per minute, and will offer the world's first seamless, real-time printing process that allows users to format on-the-fly and print at the printer's rated speed.

How safe are US Government Web Sites?

There is increasing concern about the subtle collection of personal information about individuals while browsing the World Wide Web. Much of this is facilitated through the use of "cookies" as many of SKIP readers are aware. Many of us who cried out of the dangers of cookies and other clever machinations on web sites were branded as alarmists and paranoiacs but some notable citizen's organizations and major news services are jumping on the band wagon.

On Wednesday August 27th, sharing the spotlight on leading news items was the issue of how the US Government uses and protects information gathered on their web sites. The news was trumpeted by CNN, USA Network, UPI and others. Later, one could find more details on the Internet.

What triggered this sudden awareness of personal privacy issues? 1 - The disastrous attempt by the Social Security Administration to place Personal Earnings Benefit Estimate Statements on the web only to have the system immediately compromised and 2 - the release of an OMB Watch report that of 70 government web sites surveyed, 43% of web sites collect individually identifiable information about visitors to the web site. Of the 31 agencies collecting personal information, only 11 indicate how the information will be used with only four giving consistent notice. The OMB defined the individually identifiable information as including information about education, financial transactions, medical history, criminal history, or employment history retrievable by name, SSN and other unique identifiers.

The OMB states that only 17% of all sites are providing adequate Privacy Act statements as required by law. Three agencies were using cookies but ceased the practice when privacy officers at the agencies were contacted regarding the matter. Since many users are unaware of cookie transactions and don't know how to disable the transactions, many privacy experts feel the government should not be setting cookies without proper and adequate notification.

Under provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, agencies must get permission for the use of individual records if they are to be used in any manner other than for which they were originally obtained. When collecting individual information, the government is required (by law) to notify the individual of the intended use of collected information.

Although the OMB Watch report praised several agencies for providing information as to the intended use, the majority of the agencies are not in compliance with the Privacy Act.

The report is available on the Internet at **http://ombwatch.org/ombw/info/balance/exec.html/**

America Online, Matt Drudge Sued

Sidney Blumenthal, an adviser to President Clinton, might have gotten mad when he read that cyberspace gossip disher Matt Drudge wrote that he beat his wife. But now the couple are taking the columnist to court, along with the online service that publishes his work, America Online.

Windows Yea - Apple Nay - so say Yale U

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, U.S.A., 1997 AUG 28 (NB) -- By Patrick McKenna. Apple Computer Inc. [NASDAQ:AAPL], recognized as a leader in the education market, heard a stunning announcement from Yale University when the Ivy League institution advised incoming students to purchase Windows-based computers rather than Macintosh computers. In the same announcement, Yale claimed the school could not guarantee support for Macintosh computers beyond June, 2000.

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They got Joe Camel
LOOK WHAT'S NEXT!

-by Linda Mullen AD4BL
DEC East Panhandle District

House Bill HR2369 was introduced July 30, 1997. This bill as currently drafted would prohibit receiving, divulging, publishing or using any intercepted transmission, and subject violators to substantial fines or prison terms. It also would make it illegal to modify or own equipment that is capable of receiving "the unlawful" radio communications. The FCC would be charged with investigating complaints and enforcing the stiffer regulations.

This bill would affect equipment available to scanner enthusiasts; amateurs using equipment for out of band transmissions, such as MARS, CAP, Marine transmissions; Short wave listeners. It would also affect those who monitor Weather Satellites, business radio channels, phone systems, military frequencies, police, fire, and airport downlinks. Many of these frequencies are monitored for legitimate reasons. It is estimated that the bill will take away nearly 20% of the present VHF/UHF spectrum we now use.

This bill is presently in the Telecommunications Sub-Committee of the Commerce Committee. The text of the bill can be found at the Library of Congress, Internet: http://thomas.loc.gov/. It is vital that you contact your congressman and make sure that He/she knows what this bill will do to communications in this Country and ask that they vote against it.

Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1997
(Introduced in the House)
HR 2369 IH

105th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 2369

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 31, 1997

Mr. TAUZIN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. GILLMOR, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

---

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1997'.

SEC. 2. COMMERCE IN ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON MODIFICATION- Section 302(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 302(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof the following: ', or to modify any such device, equipment, or system in any manner that causes such device, equipment, or system to fail to comply with such regulations'.

(b) PROHIBITION ON COMMERCE IN SCANNING RECEIVERS- Section 302(d) of such Act (47 U.S.C. 302(d)) is amended to read as follows:

'(d) The Commission shall prescribe regulations denying equipment authorization (under part 15 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other part of that title) for any scanning receiver that is capable of—

'(1) receiving transmissions in the frequencies allocated to any commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332(d),

'(2) readily being altered to receive transmissions in such frequencies,

'(3) being equipped with decoders that convert digital commercial mobile service transmissions to analog voice audio, or

'(4) being equipped with devices that otherwise decode encrypted radio transmissions for the purposes of unauthorized interception.'.

(c) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS- Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall prescribe amendments to its regulations for the purposes of implementing the amendments made by this section. In prescribing such amendments, and in response to subsequent changes in technology or behavior, the Commission shall review and revise its definition of the term 'capable of readily being altered' as necessary to prevent commerce in devices that may be used unlawfully to intercept or divulge radio communication.

SEC. 3. UNAUTHORIZED INTERCEPTION OR PUBLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS- Section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 605) is amended—

(1) in the heading of such section, by inserting 'interception or' after 'unauthorized';

(2) in the second sentence of subsection (a), by striking 'and divulge' and inserting 'or divulge';

(3) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking 'fined not more than $2,000 or'; and

(B) by inserting 'or fined under title 18, United States Code,' after '6 months,'; and

(4) in subsection (e)(3), by striking 'any violation' and inserting 'any receipt, interception, divulgence, publication, or utilization of any communication in violation'; and

(5) in subsection (e)(4), by striking 'any other activity prohibited by subsection (a)' and inserting 'any receipt, interception, divulgence, publication, or utilization of any communication in violation of subsection (a)'.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT- Notwithstanding any other investigative or enforcement activities of any other Federal agency, the Federal Communications Commission shall investigate alleged violations of section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 605) and may proceed to initiate action under section 503 of such Act (47 U.S.C. 503) to impose forfeiture penalties with respect to such violation upon conclusion of the Commission's investigation.

Everyone needs to write their congressmen and anyone else that might bring an end to this awful bill.

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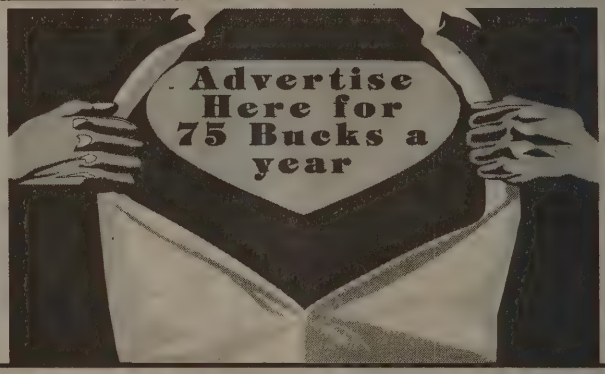

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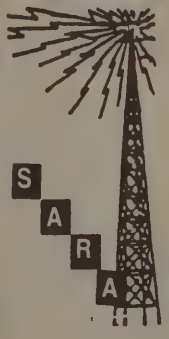

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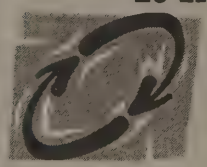

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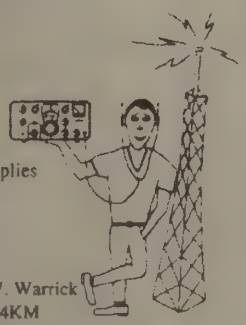

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Statistics

SFL BBS Totals - July, 1997

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS	
K0ZXF	0	12	0	12	
K4VJI	154	847	16847	17848	(GWAY)
KB4GBS	-NETWORK PROBLEM-				
KB4VOL	5	490	4542	5037	
KB4WUA	-NO REPORT-				
KC4YEK	0	207	822	829	
KD4GR	5	169	4340	4514	
KE2IX	11	374	2381	2766	
KF4BPX	1	212	5254	5467	
KF4OJ	0	126	4412	4538	
KO4KS	9	801	5555	6365	
KP4EDL	0	424	4124	4548	
N4AWX	-HARD DRIVE CRASH-				
N4HHP	7	649	4494	5150	
N4XEO	-COMPUTER PROBLEM-				
W4DPH	73	1746	6498	8317	(GWAY)
W4MIN	13	389	5560	5962	
W4MLB	-NO REPORT-				
W4MWP	-NO REPORT-				
WA2LKI	47	1508	6660	8215	
WB2WPA	6	88	2306	2400	
WB4MOZ	1	241	4472	4714	
WB4TEM	-NO REPORT-				
WD8IBY	21	322	3954	4297	

NTS TOTAL: 415

Computer and network problems, plus summer vacations, plagued many this month. Let's hope next month's reports get back to normal!

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software, except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. These reports are very important if we're to keep our frequencies. Please participate!

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida. E-MAIL: kb4vol@gate.net

****

VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE! LOTS OF HAM INFO AND THE MONTHLY LISTS!

http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol

****

NFL BBS Totals - July, 1997

Compiled by Dave Sutherland, N4GMU

CALL	BUL	PERS	NTS	TOTAL
AA4RU	N.R			
AC4WZ	N.R.			
K4GBB	4318	214	12	4544
K4OZS	N.R.			
KB4FEA	N.R.			
KE4INI	3970	276	5	4251
N4GMU	1848	232	21	2101
N4JTS	7395	578	6	7979
N8NEU	N.R.			
WB5THT	N.R.			
N0ZO	N.R.			
W4WEB	N.R.			
WX4J	N.R.			

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 44

SEND REPORTS:

N4GMU @ N4GMU.#NFL.FL.USA.NA
n4gmu@totcon.com

The NFL packet system has suffered greatly during the recent afternoon thunderstorms and very little traffic is being moved. 73 Dave

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

KD4FKF - John C. Bosch, Port Richey
WB4WJD - Robert Dute, Port Richey
K1HSQ - Robert I. Smith, Holiday
W2NGN - Dominick Capalbo, Deerfield Beach
W3EMR - W.E. Meara, Deland
N3ETH - D.E. Wilkinson, Zolfo Springs
AD4FV - Tyrus T. Lockhart, Destin
KK4GM - Stephen K. McCandless, Hollywood
W4HLY - S.G. Ashdown, Indialantic
WA4IEW - Carl J. Kunz, Valrico
K4KKW - Walter E. Scholz, Cape Coral
KB4NMC - Lyle M. Hill, Indialantic
KS4SD - Eugene E. Sikes, Sun City Center
KE4UOR - Marvin S. Cooper, Seminole
WA4WME - Hugh Vandegrift, Destin
KB4YR - R. W. Hoguet, Lakeland
W5TTP - William H. George, Sarasota

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PALM BEACH COUNTY HAMFEST

Amateur Radio & Computer Show October 18 & 19, 1997

Early Reservation Information

South Florida Fair Grounds
Southern Blvd
West Palm Beach, Florida
(Seven miles west of I-95)

Saturday October 18, 1997
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday October 19, 1997
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

* Indoor Flea Market
* Exhibits
* FCC Exams Sat. & Sun. (off site)
* Door Prizes
* Ample parking spaces
* Handicap parking in front of bldg.
* RV full-hookup sites
* On-Site Security
* Quality Food Catering

Admission

Admission tickets are $4.00 in advance and $5.00 at the door. Tickets are valid both days.

Flea Market

Flea market tables are available in the air conditioned Expo Centre on a first come basis. All tables are $20.00 in advance and $25.00 at the door, if available. Tables are valid both days. If adjacent tables are desired, registration forms must be mailed together. Electric is available at $7.50 for both days. Admission tickets must be purchased with flea market tables. Friday setup for flea market is from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information contact Ken Summerell at (561) 640-9447 or E-Mail: sum@flinet.com

Vendor Area

For Vendor information contact Hal Gainen, N4UIT at (561) 439-0805. Friday vendor setup is from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

FCC Exams

Novice thru Extra exams are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Exams will start promptly at 9:00 AM. Exams will be held off site at the E.O.C. on Belvedere Rd.

Talk-In Frequency

Talk-In will be on the **147.165** / 147.765 repeater. Talk-In will be active one hour before Hamfest hours and one hour before Setup hours.

Lodging

Days Inn - Turnpike
6255 Okeechobee Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL. 33417
(561) 686-6000 or 1-800-286-5801
Reservations must be made directly with Hotel and you must mention the HAMFEST to get the special rate. Reservation deadline is October 4th, 1997.

PBRA

Advanced Registration Form

Palm Beach County HAMFEST 1997
Reservation Deadline October 4th, 1997

(Please Print Clearly)

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State____ Zip _____

Phone_____

	Qty		
Admission (valid both days)	____	@ $4.00	_____
Flea Market	____	@ $20.00 (per space)	_____
Electric		$7.50	_____
Total			_____

Send a S.A.S.E (#10) and make checks payable to:
PBRA HAMFEST, P.O. Box 461, Lake Worth, FL 33460

(All prices include Florida State Tax.)

Upcoming Shows in Florida - Sept., 1997

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Sept 6	Seminole	FREE! Clearwater ARS Tailgate 9100 113th Street North Talk-in on 146.970 (103.5) INFO: Chris, KD4PHS (813) 298-2167
Sept 13/14	Melbourne	Melbourne Auditorium 625 Hibiscus Blvd. Talk-in on 146.850 INFO: Allen, N4PTM (407) 773-9658
Sept 21 (Sunday only)	New Port Richey	Pasco County Hamfest Talk-in on 145.35 & 147.15 INFO: Ron, N9EE (813) 376-6575
Sept 27	Sunrise	FREE! Cy Harris Flea Motorola East Parking Lot 1 bl E of Univ Dr on Sunrise Blvd Talk-in on 146.79 INFO: Robin, N4HHP (954) 583-3625
Oct 4/5	Maitland	Bahia Shrine Temple 2300 Pembrook Dr. Talk-in on 147.390 INFO: Cecil, K4KEN (407) 281-9169
Oct 11	Tampa	Egypt Temple ARA 4050 Dania Shores Drive Talk-in on 146.940 INFO: Jay, K9BSL (813) 822-9107
Oct 18	Starke	Bradford County Fairgrounds U.S. 301 just east of SR 100 Talk-in on 145.150 INFO: Dan, K4RVD (904) 475-2695
Oct 18/19	West Palm Beach	Expo Center @ South FL Fairgrounds SR 80 just east of U.S. 441 Talk-in on 147.165 INFO: Ken, KD4CTG (561) 640-9447
Oct 24/25	Miami	Computer/Hamfest Show Dade County Expo Center S.W. 112th Ave & Coral Way INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4139 **(NOTE! This is NOT the Miami Hamboree)**
Nov 1	Sorrento	Lake ARA (Eustis) East Lake C of C Bldg SR 437 (Plymouth-Sorrento Rd) Talk-in on 147.255 INFO: Chuck, KE4EXM (352) 669-2075
Nov 8	Port St Lucie	St Andrew's Lutheran Church Prima Vista Blvd. Talk-in on 146.955 INFO: Frank, N4FBX (561) 336-3069
Nov 8	Titusville	Fox Lake Park Harrison St west to the park Talk-in on 146.910/146.970 INFO: Clyde, K4EOS (407) 267-9375
Nov 15/16	Miami	UMARC/Flamingo Net Ham/Swapfest Physics parking lot. NW vorner U of Miami campus (Coral Gables) VE Exams Talk-in on 146.865 (-)
Nov 22/23	Tampa	Florida Expo Park I-4 & US 301 Talk-in on 147.165 INFO: Charlotte WB4PEL (813) 733-6937
Dec 6	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg on US 441 1.5 mi north of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.195 INFO: Al, AD4RZ (941) 467-0516
Dec 6	Ocala	Booster Stadium N 36th Ave 1 mile N of SR 40 Talk-in on 146.970 INFO: Mario, N4TSV (352) 245-9514
Dec 13	Lake City	FL Sports Hall of Fame I-75 exit 82 to US 90 west Talk-in on 145.490 INFO: Colen, WA5RKR (904) 755-7969

HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY!

PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO CALL FOR INFO!

Packet Address: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL

Army MARS Call: AAT4RV

Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL 33455

E-Mail: kb4vol@gate.net

VISIT OUR FLORIDA HAM WEB SITE! LOTS OF LINKS & THE MONTHLY LISTS!

http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol

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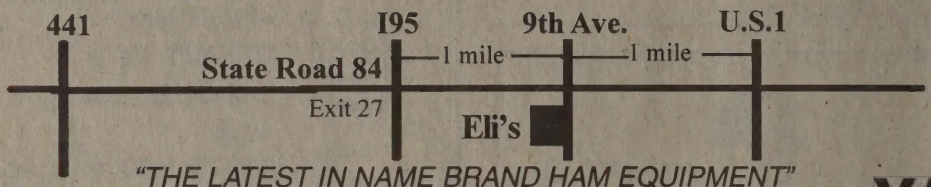

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